Montana Citizens' Guide to the 2025 Executive Orders 14147-14371 Part Two

How They Implement Project 2025: the plan to replace Democracy with Autocracy

A citizen-led project with Resources for your information

December 30, 2025

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About This Citizens' Guide

This Guide examines every published 2025 Executive Order and translates it to plain English. It has three parts.

Part One looks broadly at the effect of each Executive Order (EO) implementation in/on the U.S, and the expected impact on citizens, existing policies, standards and democracy. For the official language of the EO, readers are referred to the Federal Register. This Guide provide information on the connection to Project 2025 and its ultimate goal of empowering the executive branch to dismantle democracy and replace it with autocracy.

Part Two looks at how EOs are expected to impact the people of Montana. Each entry includes an overview, a translation of the administration's framing to the real-world impact, and notes on how these actions affect communities, families, education, health care, tribes and small businesses in this state. See Part One for broader details in each EO analysis.

Part Three includes information, definitions, explanations relevant to Project 2025's design to dismantle our democratic federal government through EOs, the Big Bill Act (HR1 Reconciliation Act), the Rescissions Bill Act (HR4); and the Government Contacts Workbook, compiled by and for citizens, which includes: U.S. Representatives, U.S. Senators and other offices of the government, news agencies – *for every state*. It also includes the current Administration Cabinet, Heritage Foundation and Supreme Court contact information. There are even more explanatory sections in Part Three, worth a look behind the cloak.

This citizen-led project. It's not perfect, but it is thorough as possible, transparent, and meant to be shared. Democracy works best when ordinary people pay attention. This Guide is one tool to make that possible.

This is not an official government publication. It was created with care as well as cross-checking, months of research and fact-checking. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy throughout, relying on verified primary sources. Any errors are unintentional, and readers are encouraged to note corrections or suggestions for improvement. This Guide is offered as a public resource - freely shared, not for sale.

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A Note on Methodology

This Citizens' Guide is the product of extensive independent research using primary sources including the Federal Register, Executive Orders, statutory text, congressional documents, CBO and OMB analyses, agency reports, and reputable investigative journalism. Drafting and synthesis were assisted by AI tools, which supported organization and clarity. All interpretations reflect the authors' independent judgement and review. No text was copied from external publications; all analysis, explanatory framing, and Montana-specific interpretation are original to this project.

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INTRODUCTION

Raising Awareness, Raising Alarm

The motivation for this project grew out of a concern for the speed with which Executive Orders ("EO") were being published, and how a striking number of them were often verbatim implementations of Project 2025 objectives. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, which has spent decades defending and preserving the individual rights and liberties of citizens, "Project 2025 is a Federal policy agenda and blueprint for a *radical restructuring of the executive branch authored and published by former Trump administration officials in partnership with The Heritage Foundation, a longstanding conservative think tank*." It effectively and improperly takes the people's power and hands it to the executive office.

"Project 2025's publication, "Mandate for Leadership," is a 900-page manual for reorganizing the entire Federal government to serve a conservative agenda. It includes a long list of extreme policy recommendations touching on nearly every aspect of American life…", all of which would lead to the corruption and destruction of democracy, the bedrock principle of the United States. (Project 2025 Explained - https://www.aclu.org/project-2025-explained).

A Classic Cloak and Dagger

Also alarming to discover were the EOs' cruel, unethical, unconstitutional, or downright un-American intended and expected outcomes – the daggers hidden behind the cloak of a conservative agenda.

Peeling Back the Cloak and Exposing the Daggers

Over the past eleven months, this guide has been created through collaboration of dedicated citizens researching and writing and, given the sheer amount of data to be analyzed, technical assistance from ChatGPT-5.0. Data of every Federal Register Executive Order from 2025 (Nos. 14147 - 14371) was reviewed and organized. After a mere year of President Trump's second term, Americans are starting to feel the impacts of these EOs, even those with questionable legal status. Each entry for an EO in this guide contains an overview of the order; its alignment with Project 2025; the Trump Administration's stated goal; any expected impacts on democracy or American citizens; a list of affected agencies; notes on legal challenges, if any; and why any of this matters at all.

The legal status, impact, and interpretation of these EOs will continue to evolve as the extent of their reach becomes clear. Updates and corrections to the Guide will be needed as these develop; suggestions for improvements are welcome. We hope this research will provide the foundation and inspiration for further investigation and will assist in bringing more attention to this attempt to dismantle democracy being done in our name.

This Guide exists because democracy belongs to all of us. Ordinary citizens can and must keep track of what is being done in our name. Our greatest strength lies in speaking out when basic decency, honesty, and facts are flouted or misconstrued to gain power and to keep 'the people' in a state of distress, distrust, and despair.

How to Cite This Guide

This Guide is prepared by a Montana-based citizen research project.

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Version: December 30, 2025 (EOs 14147–14371)

Corrections: Please email citizensguide.project@proton.me. Verified corrections will be logged on an updates page.

APA citation:
Montana Citizens' Guide Research Project. (2025, December 30). *Citizens' guide to the 2025 executive orders: Montana edition*.

Short citation (in text or footnotes):
Citizens' Guide to the 2025 Executive Orders (Montana Edition), 2025.

Helpful Resources (Nonpartisan)

- **The American Presidency Project.**
  Executive orders: Commentary, opinions, and analysis.
  https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/analyses/launching-100-days-2025
  Authoritative archive and analysis of executive actions across administrations.

- **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).**
  What is an executive order and how does it work?
  https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/what-is-an-executive-order-and-how-does-it-work
  Plain-language explanation of executive authority, limits, and constitutional context.

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WHAT IS PROJECT 2025?

The *Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise* has thirty chapters. There are more than one-hundred organizations that have participated, more than thirty-five primary authors, and more than three-hundred contributors whose writings compose the core of Project 2025 (see Heritage Foundation/Project website).

Project 2025 was not merely a policy proposal; it was designed as a governing blueprint paired with a staffing pipeline. Many of its authors and contributors now occupy positions with direct authority over budgets, rulemaking, enforcement, and executive implementation. The presence of these individuals helps explain why Project 2025 priorities appear rapidly and repeatedly in executive orders and agency actions.

Project 2025–Affiliated Figures in or Near the 2025 Trump Administration*

Name	Current Role (2025)	Project 2025 / Heritage Connection	Why This Matters
Russell Vought	Director, Office of Management and Budget (confirmed Feb 6, 2025)	Lead Project 2025 architect; former Heritage fellow; founder of Center for Renewing America	Controls budget execution, agency compliance, and implementation of EO priorities; central to executive-power expansion
Spencer Chretien	Senior Bureau Official, State Dept. (PRM)	Project 2025 contributor (immigration/refugee policy)	Positioned to unwind refugee protections and humanitarian programs consistent with P25
Gene Hamilton	Special Assistant to the President / Senior Counsel	Project 2025 contributor; former DHS legal architect	Key legal strategist shaping EO language and immigration enforcement
Michael Anton	Director of Policy Planning, State Dept.	Project 2025 contributor; Heritage-aligned ideologue	Shapes long-term foreign policy doctrine and internal guidance
Brendan Carr	Chair, Federal Communications Commission	Author of Project 2025 FCC chapter	Implements media, broadband, and public-broadcasting rollbacks
Paul Atkins	SEC Chair nominee	Project 2025 contributor on financial regulation	Deregulatory agenda aligned with Heritage's market rollback goals
Peter Navarro	Senior Counselor for Trade & Manufacturing	Contributor to Project 2025 trade framework	Advises directly on tariffs, industrial policy, and trade nationalism
Tom Homan	Senior immigration enforcement role ("Border Czar")	Heritage / Project 2025 immigration alignment	Executes aggressive immigration enforcement with minimal oversight
John Ratcliffe	Director of National Intelligence	Project 2025 intelligence contributor	Oversees intelligence posture and information flow to the President
Monica Crowley	Assistant Secretary of State	Project 2025 contributor; Heritage affiliate	Public-facing diplomacy aligned with nationalist framing
Frank Wuco	Public diplomacy/media role (reported)	Project 2025 contributor on public broadcasting/media	Connects ideology to CPB and public-media defunding
Unnamed staff	Agency staff, schedulers, legal counsel	Project 2025 personnel database alumni	P25 designed explicitly as a staffing pipeline, not just a policy document

***Primary Verification Sources**: Federal Register (appointments, EO implementation authority): WhiteHouse.gov (official appointments and role descriptions); The Heritage Foundation - Project 2025 documentation; Forbes investigative reporting on Project 2025 staffing; Education Week, DeSmog, The American Presidency Project

Project 2025 and Why it Matters in Montana

For Montana, the placement of Project 2025 authors and Heritage-aligned operatives inside federal agencies is not abstract or ideological—it directly shapes how federal power reaches rural states. Montana relies heavily on federal programs for health care, Tribal services, land management, agriculture, disaster response, public broadcasting, and infrastructure.

When individuals who helped design Project 2025 occupy roles controlling budgets, regulatory enforcement, immigration and refugee policy, labor standards, communications oversight, and agency staffing, Montana experiences faster rollbacks with fewer guardrails. Decisions made in Washington—often through executive orders or administrative guidance rather than legislation—can abruptly alter Medicaid eligibility, weaken public media that serves rural communities, narrow Tribal consultation, accelerate extractive permitting, or reduce worker and environmental protections.

Because Montana has limited capacity to absorb sudden federal withdrawals, policy churn driven by centralized executive control disproportionately affects the state's rural residents, Tribes, veterans, and low-income communities. In short, Project 2025's influence within the administration magnifies Montana's vulnerability to top-down governance with minimal local input or congressional accountability in Montana.

The effects of the EOs are already being felt in Montana.

Montana Impacts Crosswalk: Project 2025 Policy Areas, State-Level Effect

How to Read This Crosswalk. Project 2025 concentrates decision-making authority within the executive branch and embeds policy changes through staffing, enforcement discretion, and administrative rescissions. For rural states like Montana, where federal programs underpin health care, land management, Tribal services, and information access, these shifts translate into faster, less visible changes with outsized local impact.

Project 2025 Policy Area	Federal Levers Used	Montana Sectors Most Affected	What This Looks Like on the Ground in Montana
Health Care & Medicaid	Executive orders, CMS guidance, work requirements, rescissions	Rural health systems; low-income families; seniors; people with disabilities	Coverage losses from work requirements and administrative barriers; rural clinics face higher uncompensated care; counties and hospitals absorb costs
Public Lands & Natural Resources	Agency rule changes; permitting acceleration; NEPA rollbacks; staffing control	Public lands; outdoor economy; conservation; tourism	Faster extractive permitting with reduced review; weaker environmental analysis affecting watersheds, wildlife, and recreation-based economies
Tribal Nations & Trust Responsibilities	EO rescissions; agency reorganization; funding discretion	Tribal governments; Indian Health Service; education and housing	Narrowed consultation; delayed or reduced services; increased burden on Tribes to litigate to enforce trust obligations
Public Media & Communications	CPB defunding; FCC leadership; contract rescissions	Rural communities; emergency communications; education	Loss of local journalism, wildfire and emergency alerts, and educational programming where commercial media is sparse
Labor & Workforce Protections	EO rescissions; contractor rules; enforcement pullbacks	Workers; apprenticeships; federal contractors	Lower wage floors; weaker worker protections; fewer training pipelines for rural and trade-based employment
Immigration & Refugee Policy	DHS/State guidance; enforcement prioritization; funding cuts	Agricultural labor; refugee resettlement communities	Labor shortages in agriculture; loss of resettlement infrastructure that supported local economies and schools
Education & Research	Grant conditions; DEI bans; agency enforcement	Universities; students; rural schools	Chilled outreach and research funding; reduced pipelines for first-generation and rural students into federal and STEM careers
Climate & Energy Transition	Rescission of DPA authorities; program cancellations	Energy efficiency; rural housing; manufacturing	Fewer incentives for heat pumps, insulation, and clean-energy jobs that could lower rural energy costs
Democratic Governance & Accountability	Centralization of executive authority; advisory committee cuts	State and local governments; civic institutions	Fewer expert advisory bodies; reduced transparency; less opportunity for state and local input into federal decisions

Why This Matters for Montana - Montana's reliance on federal systems—combined with its rural geography and limited administrative redundancy—means that policy shifts designed in Washington can have immediate, disproportionate effects. Project 2025's approach replaces stable, legislated programs with executive discretion and personnel-driven enforcement, increasing uncertainty for communities that lack the resources to adapt quickly or litigate when protections disappear.

What is the Christian-nationalist movement?

Some of Project 2025's stated mission goals are to the dismantling of our current government and concentrating power in the president's office by what we have already seen: to create a personnel base loyal only to a conservative president, to boost the Christian nationalist view, and to weaken all other branches in the checks and balances of our democratic republic. Anyone with a different view or opinion is considered the enemy.

While there is no single organization with a formal charter, the consensus among leading researchers is that Christian nationalism is a political ideology (not denomination) that seeks to fuse a particular vision of Christianity with American civic life and law, extending that vision into public policy and national identity. In practice, its policy mission is removing the separation of church and state, prioritizing Christianity in direct contrast to the origins and foundation on which this country was built.

In the harshest criticism of this political ideology, the **cloak** of Christianity hides the **dagger** of **'the end justifies the means.'**

Key Sources & Further Reading:

- Wikipedia's "Christian nationalism" page offers a broad overview and key concepts.
- Pew Research Center provides data and analysis on the beliefs and demographics.
- Anti-Defamation League (ADL) defines the ideology and its extremist ties, linking it to white supremacy.
- Andrew Whitehead & Samuel Perry's Book: *Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States*.

Does Project 2025 acknowledge hazards of sweeping change?

From publicly available versions of the *Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise* and related Project 2025 materials, there is **nothing** that openly discusses the **risks, hazards, or unintended consequences** of implementing changes simultaneously across dozens of agencies and policies. Instead, the tone and framing are normative and prescriptive, and assume that the proposed policies are inherently correct and beneficial; that rapid change is necessary to "reverse" current federal structures.

The stated intent **of Project 2025 is to dismantle existing frameworks so that one office can control the entire government.** Where Project 2025 documents mention "risk," it usually references the risk of inaction or risk of leaving "liberal" policy frameworks in place. It does not address systemic disruption, governance failure, or institutional instability. This absence is notable, because any governmental intervention is normally risk-assessed before rollout, particularly when multiple complex systems interact.

Interaction Effects in Complex Systems

Risk management factors typically include examining outcomes with "coupling risk." This is when small changes occur together, causing a cascade of instabilities, resulting in an outcome that no single change would have caused alone. Another factor in risk management is the chaos theory of sensitivity. In this scenario, small changes to many inputs simultaneously can make the system unpredictable—like being pushed into the whitewater of a roaring river, where no certain outcome can be predicted other than a rushing tumble through unknown obstacles that could stop you dead. Our government is a complex adaptive system, and like torrential rain plus high temperatures increasing snowmelt, large parallel changes, all at once, further amplify unpredictability.

Project 2025 is a Dangerous Experiment

If too many variables are changed simultaneously in a scientific experiment, you learn nothing about what caused any change. The interactions may have compounding effects that create a result quite different than the sum of the individual changes.

In government, implementing over [number of EOs] at once means we don't just fail to learn anything useful, but we lose control and risk breaking systems so badly that the ensuing chaos is almost impossible to reverse. We are left with **loss of accountability** (no clear cause for failure); **reduced adaptability** (impossible to know which variable to adjust); and **systemic fragility** (small mistakes multiply through interconnected systems).

Ignoring unintended consequences makes Project 2025 a dangerous experiment, seemingly designed by those who either know little about complex systems or care little about the fellow humans on which they inflict this mandate for leadership cloak and a conservative promise dagger… or both.

The authors hope this Guide inspires readers to learn about Executive Orders of interest. It also includes ideas for action that can be taken by everyday people. **Democracy's defense is** not a one-time act; it is the daily work of **insisting that government remain of, by, and for the people.**

How to Use This Guide

This Guide is designed to be practical and easy to navigate. Here are a few tips to get the most out of it:

- **Numerical Order:** Entries appear in the order each Executive Order was signed. That means EO 14147 comes first, and EO 14371 is last EO published in 2025.
- **Linked Table of Contents:** Each EO title in the table of contents is a clickable link, taking you directly to the EO's entry. Other relevant pages such as the Introduction, Definitions, Charts, Discussions, Appendices and Glossary are also linked in this way.
- **Searchable:** Use the search tool (usually `Ctrl+F` on Windows or `Command+F` on Mac) to find a specific EO number, topic, or keyword anywhere in the document.
- **Plain English Format:** The point of this Guide is to describe EO content in plain language, understandable and relatable.

These EOs contain summary information, not all have the same categories, most have categories including:

Overview (what it does in simple terms)
The Federal Register language in brief **(**or stated administrative goals)
Project 2025 Alignment: (where it fits in the broader agenda)
Impact Summary (real world expected, and in some cases, already experienced impacts)
Agencies Affected
Montana-specific impact (in Part 2)
Impact on Democracy:
Why It Matters
Legal / Policy Anchors and Challenges
Sources & References
Notes: Appendices, Glossary of Acronyms, some quick lookup charts on real world impacts of the devastating effects of the One Big Bill (HR1) and the Big Rescissions Bill (HR4)- that ARE law. Some EOs with the most harmful impacts have been conveniently timed to not take effect until after the mid-term elections.

Links to the U.S. Constitution:
https://constitution.congress.gov
https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution

Link to the Bill of Rights:
https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript

Executive Orders: What They Are - and Why Citizens Should be Informed

An Executive Order (EO) is a signed, written directive from the President that manages operations of the Executive Branch. EOs are lawful tools when grounded in the Constitution or statutes.[1]

EOs are published in the Federal Register and later compiled in Title 3 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which houses presidential documents.[2, 3]

EOs have a legal basis **and limits**. The Constitution and statutes provide the sources of authority for EOs; courts review agency actions taken under them, and Congress may alter or supersede them by statute.[4, 5, 6]

Our civic stance is simple and firm: when power is exercised lawfully, it deserves respect; when power cuts corners - silencing voices that speak for equality, integrity, and truth - citizens should not avert their eyes.

This Guide invites open discussion and evidence-based debate about policies and their real-world effects.

EOs are numbered consecutively and available on the authoritative Federal Register and the American Presidency Project which is a widely used secondary archive.[7, 8]

Unless an EO sets a future effective date or deadlines, it generally takes effect on signing. A President may amend or revoke prior EOs; statutes can supersede them; and courts can enjoin unlawful implementation.[9]

Abuse of Power

When power is exercised lawfully, it deserves respect. When power cuts corners, the courts must make a course correction. Many of the EOs dictate actions that are outside the scope of the president's power – yet the president is taking shortcuts and pushing the limits of the law while attempting to silence citizen voices that express different or opposing views. This is an authoritative abuse of power and citizens should not avert their eyes.

Courts typically address the legality of agency actions taken under an EO, not the EO in the abstract. Under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), a court may enjoin (restrict) actions and "hold unlawful and set aside" agency decisions that are unconstitutional, exceed authority, or violate procedure. Many of the EOs referenced in this Guide are in the process of being legally challenged.

Remedies include **vacatur** (nullifying the action) and **remanding without vacatur** (sending the case back to the originating court while leaving the judgement in place pending new determination).[10, 11]

In 2024, the Supreme Court held that judges must not automatically defer to agencies when a law is unclear. **That means legality of these EOs cannot be assumed and that policies built on executive orders can be challenged in court until legality is proven.** [12, 13]

What Can be Done? Respectful but Unflinching Civic Action

When officials appeal to fear or narrow self-interest, the answer is not cynicism, it is engaged citizenship grounded in facts, transparency, fair-minded debate and accountability. We call on Americans of every view to defend an open marketplace of ideas where claims are tested against evidence, not manufactured to suit convenience or a revisionist outcome.

See Part 3 of this Guide for more about what citizens can do.

Footnotes & Sources

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13. Reuters, “After Chevron deference... Loper Bright and agency policymaking” (July 8, 2024). https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/after-chevron-deference-respect-loper-bright-agency-policymaking-2024-07-08/

EO 14147 - Ending the Weaponization of the Federal Government

Overview
Creates a government-wide review to identify and "correct past misconduct" linked to alleged weaponization of law enforcement and the Intelligence Community. Expected problems: the term "weaponization" isn't defined with precision, which can chill routine enforcement, slow environmental and public-integrity cases, and politicize coordination rules used by MT field offices.

Project 2025 Alignment
Centralizes White House control over investigations and curbs independent agency discretion.

Stated Goal (Administration claim/framing)
Restore constitutional norms; end politically motivated enforcement.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Federal** field operations touching MT (DOJ, EPA, BLM/USFS referrals) may pause/retune enforcement while reviews run.
- **Coordination** with universities, local health departments, and school districts could be narrowed to avoid perceived speech policing.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Potential slow-downs in environmental investigations tied to timber, mining, grazing.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Mis/disinformation partnerships may be curtailed; fewer proactive health-messaging guardrails.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Consultation practices could be re-labeled as "political," risking de-prioritization.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Campus speech disputes at UM/MSU more likely to be treated solely as First-Amendment matters, complicating harassment/safety policies.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
If "weaponization" is read broadly, Montanans may see weaker guardrails on public lands and more hands-off public-health coordination—without clear replacement standards.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
DOJ; DHS/IC liaisons; EPA/BLM/USFS; MT grantees relying on federal coordination.

Policy Anchors
Article II supervision; internal DOJ/EPA policies

Legal Challenges
APA risk if abrupt curtailments lack reasoned explanation.

Sources & References
Federal Register; 2025 EO index with FR cites.

EO 14148 - Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions

Overview
Revokes dozens of prior executive actions (often dealing with equity, climate, labor, and health). Expected problems: sudden guidance rollbacks create planning whiplash for MT agencies, schools, and small grantees; linked rules may face APA challenges if agencies undo them without a reasoned basis. Follow-on notices confirm this is the *first* in a series of rescissions.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct rollback of DEI/climate directives; consolidates executive control.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
"Restore common sense," begin "repair" of institutions and economy.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Equity, climate, and public-health guidance used by MT agencies/schools can disappear overnight, complicating grants, compliance, and reporting.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Relaxed air/water/climate guidance can alter permitting and enforcement on public lands.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Equity-focused outreach programs risk losing federal support.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Weaker consultation/equity standards; fewer Indigenous-language/health resources.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Contracting and student-support protections tied to revoked EOs may erode.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Rule-of-the-day governance raises costs and uncertainty for rural and tribal communities that rely on stable federal rules.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
EPA; DOI/BLM/USFS; HHS/ED; OPM/OMB.

Policy Anchors
EO revocation authority

Legal Challenges
APA reliance/notice-and-comment risks for connected regulations.

Sources & References
Federal Register text; "Additional Rescissions" notice citing EO 14148.

EO 14149 - Restoring Freedom of Speech and Ending Federal Censorship

Overview
Bars federal entities from engaging in—or using federal resources to facilitate—censorship of protected speech; orders reviews and corrective actions. **Expected problems:** unclear boundaries for "facilitating" moderation can chill standard public-health messaging partnerships and create grant-condition disputes for UM/MSU and local health departments.

Project 2025 Alignment
Curb agency roles in "disinformation" efforts; shift content decisions outside government programs.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Secure First-Amendment rights; ensure no officer/agent abridges speech or uses taxpayer funds to do so.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Federal grants/contracts with MT entities may add strict clauses to avoid perceived moderation; K-12 and campus policies tied to federal funds face scrutiny.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Climate/wildfire info partnerships may avoid moderation to sidestep "censorship" claims.
- **Rural Health & Clinics:** Vaccine/opioid outreach may be retooled; fewer proactive misinformation interventions.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal colleges gain latitude on curriculum speech but may lose federal tools to counter harmful misinformation.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors:** More controversial speech protection on campus; older residents may see more unfiltered info in public channels.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Protecting speech is vital, but ambiguity can hamstring basic safety messaging and sow confusion for grantees.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
DOJ; HHS/CDC; ED; MT grantees/contractors (UM, MSU, health departments).

Legal / Policy Anchors
First Amendment; federal spending power/contract conditions; APA risks for abrupt grant-rule shifts.

Sources & References
Federal Register text; public-inspection PDF.

EO 14150 - America First Policy Directive to the Secretary of State

Overview
Directs State to realign programs, personnel, and budgets to an "America First" foreign policy and to issue guidance accordingly. **Expected problems:** tighter White House control over diplomacy can narrow cultural/educational exchanges and re-prioritize trade advocacy—creating volatility for MT ag exporters and campus partnerships.

Project 2025 Alignment
Centralizes foreign policy; emphasizes bilateral leverage and reciprocal trade.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
"Champion core American interests and always put America … first."

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
ECA exchanges and NGO sub-grants can be narrowed; trade promotion may pivot, affecting wheat/pulse outreach.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Changes in market-access advocacy; potential headwinds in certain export markets.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Minimal direct effect, except where exchanges fund rural health collaborations.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Tribal-college exchanges may see delays/new criteria.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Fewer fellowships/international programs at UM/MSU.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Diplomatic "realignment" shows up locally as fewer grants and less stable trade support that small exporters and universities rely on.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
State (ECA), USTR/USDA trade promotion; MT universities/NGOs.

Legal Challenges / Policy Anchors
Article II foreign-affairs powers; OMB-State budget coordination.

Sources & References
Federal Register entry; public-inspection PDF.

EO 14151 - Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing

Overview
Directs shutdown of DEI/DEIA offices across federal agencies and rollbacks of equity-related policies and contractor requirements. **Expected problems:** immediate staff disruptions, loss of language-access/outreach capacity in rural and tribal programs, and clashes with civil-rights/EEOC obligations; early reporting described DEI staff placed on leave pending closure.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implements Agenda 47/Heritage themes to end federal DEI and reframe hiring/education as "merit-based."

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
End "wasteful" DEI, stop "illegal discrimination," ensure uniform treatment without preferences.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
USFS/BLM/VA/USDA offices in MT pause or close DEI programs; compliance rules for UM/MSU and tribal colleges rewritten.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Fewer DEI-driven recruitment/retention efforts in land-management agencies.
- **Rural Health & Clinic**
  - Loss of equity-focused outreach (language access, rural/tribal health disparities).
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Hiring/education pipelines and culturally responsive services risk cuts.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Contractor rules nudging inclusive hiring/training may be voided; students and vets lose targeted supports.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Ending DEI doesn't erase disparities—it removes tools rural and tribal communities used to close them, widening gaps while creating compliance churn.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
OPM/OMB; VA; USDA/USFS/BLM; ED/HHS.

Legal Challenges / Policy Anchors
Civil-rights/EEOC interplay; contractor requirements; potential APA/equal-protection litigation.

Sources & References
Federal Register text; early national reporting on immediate DEI office actions. Federal Register+1

EO 14152 - Holding Former Government Officials Accountable for Election Interference and Improper Disclosure of Sensitive Governmental Information

Overview
Directs DOJ, DNI, and other agencies to review and, where appropriate, revoke access/privileges for former officials who allegedly misused intelligence or interfered in elections; instructs agencies to signal those actions to courts in related litigation. The stated aim is integrity; the practical risk is chilled speech and politicized "fitness" tests touching universities, media partners, and civic groups in Montana—especially around election administration and public-records disputes.

Project 2025 Alignment Theme
Punitive "accountability" tools and tighter White House control over information flows.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Prevent misuse of intelligence assessments in elections; Restore public trust by curbing "politically motivated" disclosures.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Universities & press**
  UM/MSU researchers and local outlets that partner on election-security or disinformation studies could face heightened scrutiny when projects overlap with federal datasets.
- **Election workforce**
  County officials may encounter more legal posturing or "notice to court" filings that complicate routine election litigation.
- **Civic groups**
  FOIA/public-records advocates could see slower responses where agencies fear "improper disclosure" accusations.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  Minimal direct effect.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  None direct; indirect only via information-sharing rules for public communications.
- **Tribal Nations**
  Potential chill on intergovernmental communications involving voting-rights coordination if agencies become more restrictive.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  Students and faculty engaging in election-related research face higher compliance and reputational risk.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
The EO's "accountability" frame can blur into viewpoint tests. In a small-media, small-staff state, extra legal maneuvers or record-control policies land as time and cost burdens for counties, campuses, and newsrooms.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)
DOJ, DNI/ODNI; DHS (CISA); MT Secretary of State & county election offices (coordination).

Legal / Policy Anchors Article II authority; directs litigation posture and clearance actions via DOJ/DNI.

Sources & References Federal Register: EO 14152, 90 FR 8343–8346 (Jan. 29, 2025).

EO 14153 - Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential

Overview
Orders a rapid expansion of energy/mineral access in Alaska (e.g., revisiting withdrawals, speeding leasing/permitting). Though geographically focused on AK, it signals a deregulatory template BLM and DOI can later mirror in Montana—pressuring public-land reviews, environmental safeguards, and consultation norms.

Project 2025 Alignment Theme
Aggressive resource extraction, streamlined federal approvals, diminished environmental/consultation constraints.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Boost domestic output, cut dependence on imports, and fast-track permits on federal lands.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Precedent risk**
  Shorter NEPA timelines and pressure to open sensitive tracts could be replicated in MT.
- **Workload shift**
  Federal field offices in MT may be tasked to "match" AK streamlining, compressing staff capacity for local reviews.
- **Litigation exposure**
  If guardrails are trimmed, MT projects may see more lawsuits and injunctions.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  Potential for expedited oil, gas, and hard-rock permits near ranchlands and watersheds.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  Indirect: industrial traffic and air/water concerns stress small public-health systems.
- **Tribal Nations**
  Consultation timeframes could tighten, straining sovereign participation in land decisions.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  Energy construction jobs may tick up; costs from environmental harms fall hardest on low-income communities.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
What starts in Alaska rarely stays there. The same playbook can be invoked to fast-track controversial projects on or near Montana public lands.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)
DOI/BLM, USFS; MT DEQ and local conservation districts (coordination).

Legal / Policy Anchors
Public-lands and leasing authorities; instructs agency policy shifts that can influence NEPA practice.

Sources & References
Federal Register: EO 14153, 90 FR 8347–8351 (Jan. 29, 2025).

EO 14154 - Unleashing American Energy

Overview
Declares sweeping measures to accelerate domestic energy supply across oil, gas, coal, transmission, and siting—revoking or displacing multiple climate/clean-energy directives from 2021–2023. For Montana, that means faster timelines for leasing and infrastructure—and higher odds that environmental justice, climate cost metrics, and federal sustainability targets are pared back or scrapped.

Project 2025 Alignment Theme
"All-of-the-above" fossil ramp-up, rollback of climate tools (e.g., social cost of carbon), executive-driven permitting.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Cut red tape, increase domestic energy production, lower costs for consumers.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Leasing push**
  More pressure to lease/surface-access on or near MT public lands.
- **Transmission siting**
  Easier approvals can route new lines across ranchlands with tighter timelines.
- **Rule rollbacks**
  Disbanding the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of GHGs removes a key planning metric agency used to weigh project impacts.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  Increased drilling/mining activity near grazing, wildlife habitat, and watersheds; potential for conflict with outfitters and producers.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  Air quality and heavy-truck traffic burdens fall on small rural systems.
- **Tribal Nations**
  Shorter consultation windows and fewer climate-justice requirements reduce leverage in project mitigation.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  Short-term construction work vs. longer-term exposure to price/health externalities; fixed-income households are sensitive to utility volatility.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Permitting "speed" delivers projects faster—but can offload costs (pollution, access conflicts, legal fights) onto rural and tribal communities least able to absorb them.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)
DOI/BLM, DOE/FERC, EPA; MT DEQ, PSC (interface).

Legal / Policy Anchors
Revokes prior climate orders; dismantles federal social-cost-of-carbon machinery; instructs agencies to prioritize production.

Sources & References
Federal Register: EO 14154, 90 FR 8353–8359 (Jan. 29, 2025).

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EO 14155 - Withdrawing the United States From the World Health Organization

Overview
Orders the U.S. to withdraw from WHO, revokes EO 13987 (2021), pauses future U.S. funding/support, recalls personnel, and directs the NSC/OPPRP to rework global health strategy. For Montana, international outbreak intelligence and technical pipelines that feed into rural hospital readiness can thin out, while public-health coordination (vaccines, surveillance, lab networks) becomes patchier and more costly to replicate.

Project 2025 Alignment Theme
Exit multilateral health bodies; centralize biosecurity coordination domestically.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Reduce "unfair" WHO burdens; create alternative partnerships and strengthen U.S. biosecurity.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Early-warning gap**
  Less-timely pathogen intel reaching DPHHS and frontier clinics.
- **Costs shift local**
  Replacing WHO-linked training and guidance with bespoke systems strains small budgets.
- **University impacts**
  UM/MSU global-health collaborations face funding uncertainty.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  Animal/zoonotic surveillance coordination gets harder, affecting ranch biosecurity planning.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  Rural hospitals and critical-access clinics may lose standardized tools and trainings previously harmonized with WHO.
- **Tribal Nations**
  IHS/tribal clinics could face additional coordination costs for vaccination and surveillance protocols.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  Vulnerable populations are most exposed when supply chains and guidance fragment.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Global health threats don't stop at state lines. Cutting formal WHO ties forces small systems to reinvent expensive wheels—and can slow response when speed matters most.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)
HHS/CDC, OPPRP/NSC; MT DPHHS; IHS/tribal health partners.

Legal / Policy Anchors
Acts through executive direction; instructs State/OMB to effect funding pause, personnel recall, and notice to UN/WHO.

Sources & References
Federal Register: EO 14155, 90 FR 8361–8362 (Jan. 29, 2025); White House & UCSB text confirmations.

EO 14156 - Declaring a National Energy Emergency

Overview. Declares a national emergency to "expedite" domestic energy supply, siting, and infrastructure and tells agencies to use emergency authorities (including Clean Water Act emergency permits and ESA emergency consultations) to fast-track projects, with specific attention to the West Coast and Alaska. That signals accelerated timelines for leasing, pipelines, transmission, and refining—often by compressing environmental review and consultation. For Montana, the combination of emergency Army Corps permitting, and ESA emergency consultation creates real risk that local input (counties, landowners, Tribes) gets sidelined on projects affecting rangeland, watersheds, and wildlife corridors.

Project 2025 Alignment. Aggressive "energy dominance" posture and broad use of executive emergency powers to speed fossil infrastructure.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)

- Fix "precariously inadequate" U.S. energy supply; reduce high prices.
- Fast-track infrastructure and allow E15 waivers.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Faster federal permits**: Emergency paths under CWA §404/§10 and ESA consultations shorten timelines for energy and linear projects that cross MT streams and habitat.
- **Less local leverage**: Compressed process can reduce county, landowner, and Tribal ability to shape routes/mitigation.

Impact On Montana

- **Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Pipeline/line-build windows widen; ranchers/irrigators may see more condemnation pressure and construction traffic.
  - ESA "emergency" usage can narrow wildlife and fish protections during buildout.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Emergency consultation rules can curtail robust government-to-government consultation on projects near Blackfeet, Crow, Northern Cheyenne, CSKT lands.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Short-term construction booms strain rural EMS and clinics; longer-term, E15 waiver policy may shift fuel blends regionally.
- **Small Businesses & Households**
  - Construction-driven price & traffic spikes; mixed outlook on retail fuel prices vs. local environmental risk.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
"Emergency" tools move big projects faster—often by shrinking the room for local fixes. That's efficiency for sponsors, but it can mean more contention for ranchers, anglers, and Tribes who rely on thorough review.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces)
DOE, EPA, Army Corps/USACE, DOI/FWS, CEQ, DOT/PHMSA; MT DEQ/DPHHS/PSC as coordinating partners.

Legal / Policy Anchors
NEA; IEEPA references; CWA §404/§10; ESA emergency consultation (50 CFR 402.05).

Source: Federal Register entry and PDF for EO 14156.

EO 14157 - Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as FTOs/SDGTs

Overview
Creates a process to designate drug cartels and certain transnational gangs as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) or Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs), directing State, Treasury, DHS/DOJ to move quickly and prepare broader removal/detention actions. The move raises the ceiling on financial sanctions and immigration enforcement and links to later border "invasion" steps. For Montana, the direct border is Canadian—not Mexican—but banking compliance, interagency tasking, and local law-enforcement coordination will still tighten.

Project 2025 Alignment
"Law-and-order" escalation; terrorism tools applied to organized crime.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
"Total elimination" of these organizations' presence and operations affecting U.S. security.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Bank/credit-union compliance**: Stronger screening of remittances and small business wires; more OFAC checks in community banks.
- **Local policing tie-ins**: More joint task forces and data-sharing pressures for sheriffs and MTDOJ.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  Could steer federal funds toward interdiction over treatment in counties already stretched by meth/fentanyl.
- **Tribal Nations**
  Risk of profiling spillovers in cross-deputized operations; need for clear jurisdiction protocols.
- **Small Businesses & Households**
  Tighter banking compliance increases friction for legitimate cross-border trade and immigrant families.

Why It Matters
Broader terrorism tools change how banks, cops, and courts operate—rural areas feel the paperwork and community tension without seeing cartel hubs nearby.

Agencies Affected
State, Treasury/OFAC, DOJ, DHS; MT DOJ, county sheriffs as partners.

Legal / Policy Anchors
INA §219 (FTO); IEEPA; EO 13224 (amended/linked).

Source
Federal Register entry for EO 14157.

EO 14158 - Establishing and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE)

Overview
Renames/repurposes USDS and stands up a White House-run tech modernization push ("DOGE"), with mandatory **DOGE Teams** inside every agency and broad access to unclassified systems/data. It explicitly displaces prior executive orders or regulations that impede USDS access. For Montana, that centralization can reroute IT spending, consolidate procurement away from smaller vendors, and reduce local control in regional offices (USFS, BLM, USDA, EPA).

Project 2025 Alignment
Centralize federal IT authority in EOP; streamline (and politicize) access to systems.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
"Maximize efficiency" via software/IT modernization; interoperability and data synchronization.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Top-down IT standards**: Field offices in MT may be required to adopt EOP-driven software, sidelining local tools.
- **Procurement consolidation**: Tilt toward large integrators; fewer awards to small MT IT shops.

Impact On Montana

- **Small Businesses & Workforce**
  Fewer federal subcontracts for Montana tech vendors; travel/implementation costs rise for local offices.
- **Tribal Nations & Local Governments**
  Data-sharing demands can touch interagency MOUs; privacy/sovereignty questions if state/Tribal interfaces are pulled into EOP-directed systems.
- **Public Lands & Natural Resources**
  Region 1/BLM Montana offices may see system migrations that slow permitting/NEPA workloads during transition.

Why It Matters
When IT power moves to the White House, rural states lose leverage to tailor systems to local realities—and small vendors lose seats at the table.

Agencies Affected
EOP/USDS (renamed), all cabinet agencies; MT interfaces: USFS Region 1, BLM MT-Dakotas, USDA NRCS/ARS, EPA Region 8.

Legal / Policy Anchors
5 U.S.C. §551 definition of "agency"; 5 U.S.C. §3161 temporary org authority; displacement clause for prior orders.

Source
Federal Register entry for EO 14158.

EO 14159 - Protecting the American People Against Invasion

Overview
Revokes several 2021 immigration EOs, reorients enforcement across DOJ/DHS, establishes **Homeland Security Task Forces in all states**, expands civil/criminal penalties, authorizes broader state-local 287(g) agreements, and directs preparations connected to "invasion" or related authorities. Even though Montana is a northern border state, the "all states" task-force model means new coordination demands, detention logistics, and potential highway/rail checkpoints far from the southern border.

Project 2025 Alignment
Maximal interior enforcement; state-local deputization; expand detention/penalty toolkit.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
"Total and efficient" enforcement against inadmissible/removable aliens; revoke prior policies viewed as permissive.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **More federal-state tasking**: New HSTFs and 287(g) agreements reshape county workloads.
- **Detention & court strain**: Rural jails/courts face case volume and transport pressures.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  Chilling effects reduce clinic visits among mixed-status families; vaccine and WIC uptake can drop.
- **Tribal Nations**
  Cross-border travel for Blackfeet families (Akamina/Carway) risks added scrutiny; jurisdictional tensions if HSTFs operate near reservation boundaries.
- **Agriculture & Small Business**
  Seasonal labor volatility at ranches, dairies, and processors; compliance headaches for small employers.

Why It Matters
It nationalizes a southern-border narrative—without new rural resources—to every county in Montana, increasing enforcement visible in schools, clinics, and courthouses.

Agencies Affected
DHS (CBP/ICE/USCIS), DOJ; MT DOJ, county sheriffs, courts.

Legal / Policy Anchors
INA; 287(g) (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)); revocations of EOs 13993, 14010, 14011, 14012.

Source
Federal Register entry for EO 14159.

EO 14160 - Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship

Overview
Orders agencies not to recognize U.S. citizenship for certain U.S.-born children (prospectively, 30 days after the EO) where a parent's status falls into specified categories, and directs rapid rule/guidance changes at State, DHS, SSA. The policy stakes a contested interpretation of the 14th Amendment and 8 U.S.C. §1401 and sets up litigation. In Montana, even small numbers of affected families trigger real documentation problems (birth certificates/passports/SSNs), school enrollment confusion, and due-process disputes.

Project 2025 Alignment
Narrow birthright citizenship; heighten verification and documentary barriers.

Stated Goal (Administration framing) Prevent issuance/acceptance of federal or state documents recognizing citizenship for newly born individuals outside the EO's criteria.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Vital records friction**: County clerks face new verification steps; more state-federal back-and-forth.
- **School/clinic knock-ons**: Immunization, Medicaid/CHIP, and enrollment tied to documentation become harder to navigate.

Impact On Montana

Rural Health & Clinics
Newborn coverage and WIC enrollment delayed pending documentation; rural clinics pick up admin time.
Tribal Nations
Interplay with Tribal enrollment/citizenship rules (distinct from U.S. citizenship) require careful communication to avoid confusion.
Small Businesses & Households
Passport/SSN processing delays affect travel, banking, taxes; legal costs rise for low-income families.

Why It Matters
Whatever one's view on constitutional theory, the operational reality is paperwork gridlock and family uncertainty—problems that hit rural and low-income Montanans hardest.

Agencies Affected
State (passports), DHS/USCIS, SSA; MT DPHHS and county vital-records offices as frontline implementers.

Legal / Policy Anchors
14th Amendment; 8 U.S.C. §1401; EO effective for births **30 days after** issuance; agency guidance due within 30 days.

Source
Federal Register entry for EO 14160.

EO 14161 - Protecting the United States From Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats

Overview
Directs State/DHS/DOJ to tighten vetting, visa screening, and entry restrictions; sets the stage for country-based travel limits and broader use of security waivers/exemptions. **Expected problems:** broad categories and fast timelines can yield over-blocking (denials/delays for students, researchers, and family visitors), heavier bank/compliance burdens in small markets, and strained campus/medical exchange programs in MT.

Project 2025 Alignment
Escalated national-security screening; wider use of entry bans.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Protect against terrorism and hostile actors by restricting entry and tightening screening.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **UM/MSU**: visa delays/denials for students, postdocs, and visiting scholars.
- **Hospitals/clinics**: credentialing hires from affected countries gets slower.
- **Banks/credit unions**: more OFAC/KYC checkpoints for remittances and tuition wires.

Impact On Montana
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Minimal direct, except if vendor/tech staff face travel barriers.
Rural Health & Clinics
Recruiting foreign-trained clinicians becomes harder.
Tribal Nations
Cultural/educational exchanges may be chilled when partners fall under entry controls.
Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Students and researchers bear the brunt; families see disrupted visits.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Security rules written for big hubs still hit rural states—shrinking talent pipelines and slowing university/hospital hiring.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
State (consular), DHS (CBP/USCIS), DOJ; UM/MSU; MT hospitals; local banks.

Legal / Policy Anchors
INA; 3 U.S.C. §301; later proclamations implement country lists.

Sources & References
Federal Register (90 FR 8451); White House posting.

EO 14162 - Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements

Overview
Reorients U.S. participation in environmental accords toward "no-undue-burden" standards and instructs diplomats to renegotiate/withdraw where terms are seen as harmful to the U.S. economy. **Expected problems:** weaker cross-border wildfire/watershed cooperation and more case-by-case exceptions that complicate Montana's Canada-facing compacts and joint fire response.

Project 2025 Alignment
De-emphasize multilateral climate regimes; prioritize domestic industry.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Prevent international environmental deals from "stifling" the U.S. economy; seek revised terms.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Wildfire & smoke**: fewer formal ties/commitments for coordinated fire response and air-quality alerts with Canadian counterparts.
- **Watersheds**: more friction in water-quality/habitat MOUs covering transboundary basins.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources
More uncertainty for fisheries and water-quality standards in shared basins.
Rural Health & Clinics
Smoke/public-health advisories may be less synchronized across the border.
Tribal Nations
Tribes lose leverage that came from U.S. obligations in international forums.
Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Rural households feel smoke/air impacts without robust cross-border mitigation.

Why It Matters
Montana sits on the frontline of cross-border fire and water issues; walking back international frameworks makes joint action harder.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
State/EPA/USFS/DOI; MT DEQ; Tribal and local fire agencies.

Legal / Policy Anchors
Executive foreign-affairs authority; potential treaty/MOU renegotiations.

Sources & References
Federal Register; Public Inspection PDF; UCSB text.

EO 14163 - Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program

Overview
Suspends or sharply curtails USRAP admissions and revokes EO 14013 (2021), directing DHS/State to rewrite priorities and vetting. **Expected problems:** resettlement agencies in Billings/Missoula see pipeline freezes; grant-dependent case management and health navigation programs contract, with spillovers for clinics and schools.

Project 2025 Alignment
Reduce humanitarian admissions; reframe aid toward security-first criteria.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Stop perceived abuse of refugee pathways; focus resources on "real threats."

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Refugee support**: housing, employment, and school integration services lose federal dollars.
- **Clinics**: language-access and behavioral-health supports shrink.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Minor direct.

Rural Health & Clinics
Clinics and county health departments lose grant-backed navigators.

Tribal Nations
Overlap through shared nonprofit partners; fewer culturally competent services in mixed communities.

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Schools absorb transitions without added funding; low-income families lose community supports.

Why It Matters
When admissions pause, funding follows. Rural nonprofits in Montana don't have slack to backfill sudden federal withdrawals.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
State/PRM, DHS/USCIS; HHS/ORR; local resettlement contractors.

Legal / Policy Anchors
INA/Refugee Act; revokes EO 14013; effective timelines in FR notice.

Sources & References
Federal Register (90 FR 8459); White House posting; AILA summary.

EO 14164 - Restoring the Death Penalty and Protecting Public Safety

Overview
Lifts the federal execution moratorium, directs DOJ/BOP to ready facilities/protocols, and signals a broader criminal-justice posture emphasizing capital punishment. **Expected problems:** litigation costs and custody logistics rise, while state–federal coordination tensions deepen (Montana retains a death-penalty statute but has had long gaps in use).

Project 2025 Alignment
"Law-and-order" emphasis; reversal of prior clemency/moratorium policy.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Restore capital punishment for the "worst crimes" to protect public safety.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Courts/corrections**: federal cases touch MT juries, facilities, and marshals' logistics.
- **Universities/medical**: renewed debates over lethal-injection drugs and medical-ethics constraints.

Impact On Montana

Rural Health & Clinics
Indirect: mental-health and victim-services grants may shift priorities.

Tribal Nations
Historic opposition among some Tribes could intensify sovereignty and venue debates.

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Low-income defendants face heightened capital-defense resource gaps.

Why It Matters
Policy symbolism has budget realities—defense, prosecution, and custody costs don't vanish in rural districts.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
DOJ (AG, BOP), USMS; MT DOJ/courts (coordination).

Legal / Policy Anchors
Federal death-penalty statutes; DOJ directives implementing the EO.

Sources & References
Federal Register; UCSB text; DOJ implementation memo.

EO 14165 - Securing Our Borders

Overview
Orders construction/deployment of physical barriers, large-scale personnel surges, maximum detention, and expanded state–local cooperation under immigration laws. **Expected problems:** "all states" implementation pushes southern-border tactics into northern states like Montana, increasing checkpoint operations, detention contracts, and court backlogs without proportional resources.

Project 2025 Alignment
Maximal interior enforcement; operational control mandates.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Achieve "complete operational control" of the border; detain to the maximum extent; accelerate removals.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Ports/roads**: more inspections at Sweetgrass, Roosville, Piegan; delays for trade and travelers.
- **Counties**: 287(g)-style agreements and task forces expand local workload- requires local county police and sheriff's departments are being asked/mandated—to act as federal immigration agents, which creates more work for them and uses their own resources.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Trucking delays increase costs for ranchers and small manufacturers.
Rural Health & Clinics
Mixed-status families avoid clinics; public-health messaging gets harder.
Tribal Nations
Blackfeet cross-border travel sees more scrutiny; jurisdiction frictions rise.
Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Court and social-service caseloads increase in small counties.

Why It Matters
Policies designed for high-volume southern sectors can swamp small northern communities with compliance and court strain.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
DHS (CBP/ICE), DOJ; MT DOJ, sheriffs, MT courts.

Legal / Policy Anchors
INA; 8 U.S.C. 1103; 287(g) partnerships.

Sources & References
Federal Register entry and White House posting; NAFSA summary of FR cite.

EO 14166 - Application of Protecting Americans From Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act to TikTok

Overview
Implements the new statute targeting TikTok/ByteDance; orders DOJ not to enforce for 75 days to allow policy review/negotiation, later extended by subsequent EOs (to Sept. 17, 2025). **Expected problems:** compliance whiplash for schools/universities and state IT; uncertainty for creators/small businesses using TikTok for sales and tourism in MT.

Project 2025 Alignment
Hard line on "foreign adversary controlled apps"; national-security-first posture.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Protect national security while seeking a path that avoids an "abrupt shutdown."

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **K-12 & UM/MSU**: policy toggles on device/network restrictions; training and parent comms overhead.
- **Tourism & Main Street**: small shops and outfitters reliant on TikTok marketing face platform risk.

Impact On Montana
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Minimal direct.
Rural Health & Clinics
Health departments that used TikTok for outreach must shift channels.
Tribal Nations
Tribal schools and enterprises navigate conflicting guidance on app use.
Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Students/creators lose a key outreach/commerce tool during enforcement windows.

Why It Matters
Security concerns are real—but stop-start enforcement is costly for rural schools and small businesses that lack comms teams.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
DOJ, DHS, Commerce; MT OPI, UM/MSU IT/security teams.

Legal / Policy Anchors
Pub. L. 118-50 (the Act); EO 14166 §2 enforcement delay; later EOs 14258 and 14310 extend delays.

Sources & References
Federal Register (90 FR 8611); extension notice (June 24, 2025).

EO 14167 - Clarifying the Military's Role in Protecting the Territorial Integrity of the United States

Overview
Directs DoD to treat border security as a core mission: revises the **Unified Command Plan** and tasks **USNORTHCOM** to "seal the borders," with near-term planning deliverables (Level-3 plan and commander's estimate) and ongoing campaign requirements. **Expected problems:** military-first posture can spill into northern states (like MT) with increased operations, checkpoints, and interagency tasking that local communities and courts aren't resourced to absorb.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implied. Mirrors the playbook's emphasis on law-and-order and expanded executive control over border operations; relevance for MT is the likely extension of "southern border" tactics to the U.S.–Canada frontier.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Prioritize the Armed Forces' role in protecting sovereignty and territorial integrity at U.S. borders.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Operational uptick** at Sweetgrass, Roosville, Piegan (more inspections, rolling checkpoints).
- **County workload** rises via joint task forces and detention/transport logistics.
- **Trade & travel** face delays; small carriers and tourism take the hit.

Impact On Montana
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Longer border wait times raise costs for ranchers and small manufacturers dependent on just-in-time parts.
Rural Health & Clinics
Mixed-status families may avoid care; EMS transfers that cross the border face added scrutiny.
Tribal Nations
Blackfeet cross-border travel and cultural events face more checks; jurisdiction frictions increase.
Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Court dockets and public-defense needs rise in small counties.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
A DoD-led "seal the border" mandate designed for high-volume sectors can swamp small northern communities with compliance, costs, and court strain.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
DoD/USNORTHCOM, DHS (CBP/ICE), DOJ; MT DOJ, sheriffs, county courts.

Legal / Policy Anchors
Commander-in-Chief authority; tasking to revise the Unified Command Plan; implementation subject to appropriations.

Sources & References
UCSB Presidential Documents (full text); FR listing.

EO 14168 - Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government

Overview
Rewrites executive-branch definitions of sex (binary, immutable), orders agency-wide changes to forms, guidance, and enforcement, directs DOJ to re-interpret Bostock limits, and moves to roll back prior Title IX/EEOC/HUD guidance. Agencies are told to end federal funding for "gender ideology" and align ID documents and personnel records to the EO's definitions. **Expected problems:** conflicts with civil-rights statutes/regs, disability/Title IX accommodations, and existing court orders, plus immediate policy whiplash for schools and health systems.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Tracks the social-policy planks to repeal DEI/LGBTQ+ protections, redefine sex across agencies, and condition federal funding accordingly - touching K-12, higher ed, health, and grants used in MT.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Use "accurate" sex-based definitions to protect women's rights and safety; remove "gender ideology" from federal policy.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **K-12 & MT OPI**: Title IX enforcement pivots; districts must update forms/policies, handle complaints under new definitions.
- **UM/MSU & Tribal colleges**: campus policies, housing, and athletics face federal scrutiny and grant-condition changes.
- **Clinics/insurers**: coverage and nondiscrimination policies face reinterpretation risks.

Impact On Montana
Rural Health & Clinics
Confusion on coverage and referrals for trans patients; risk of chilled care-seeking.
Tribal Nations
Tribal schools and clinics must navigate conflicting tribal/federal norms; potential sovereignty tensions.
Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Trans and nonbinary students are most exposed to policy shifts; low-resource districts have least capacity to adapt.

Why It Matters
Policy rewrites land on school offices, registrars, and clinics—not just DC. Rural and tribal communities have the fewest staff to implement fast, contested changes.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
HHS, ED/Office for Civil Rights, DOJ/EEOC, DHS/State (IDs), MT OPI, UM/MSU.

Legal / Policy Anchors
Definitions in **Sec. 2**; DOJ re-guidance on **Bostock**; agency rescissions of prior LGBTQ+ guidance.

Sources & References
White House text; FR listing; govinfo docket.

EO 14169 - Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid

Overview
Orders a sweeping review of foreign assistance and (during the review) institutes a 90-day pause on new obligations/disbursements to foreign countries, implementing NGOs/IOs, and contractors—pending alignment decisions by State/OMB. **Expected problems:** pipeline freezes for Montana-linked universities/NGOs doing health, agriculture, or exchange projects abroad; grant compliance uncertainty for staffs in Missoula/Bozeman.

Project 2025 Alignment
Calls to shrink and refocus foreign aid toward administration priorities; MT relevance is funding risk for university centers and nonprofits tied to USAID/State programs.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
End "inefficient/misaligned" aid and redirect to "U.S. interests."

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **UM/MSU**: delays or cuts to cooperative research/extension projects overseas.
- **NGOs** (faith-based and secular): bridge-funding gaps for staff and subgrants.
- **Local banks**: added diligence on wires tied to paused grants.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources
University ag/irrigation and rangeland projects abroad lose continuity; student fieldwork suspended.

Rural Health & Clinics
Indirect: global-health partnerships that fed talent/training into MT clinics are disrupted.

Tribal Nations
Tribal colleges in exchange consortia face paused awards.

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Students miss funded field placements; small NGOs face layoffs.

Why It Matters
A 90-day "pause" is a budget cliff for small Montana grantees with thin reserves.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
State/USAID, OMB; UM/MSU; Missoula/Bozeman NGO hubs.

Legal / Policy Anchors
Foreign-assistance authorities; EO directs **agency reviews and approvals** before resuming spend.

Sources & References
Federal Register (90 FR 8619); White House text; NAFSA regulatory brief (pause details).

EO 14170 - Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and Restoring Merit to Government Service

Overview Directs a government-wide Federal Hiring Plan within 120 days to expand skills-based assessments (per the Chance to Compete Act of 2024), cut time-to-hire to under 80 days, improve applicant communications, modernize tech/data, and require visible engagement by agency leadership. It frames these steps as "restoring merit," barring hiring based on race, sex, or religion and screening out applicants "unwilling to defend the Constitution." **Those operational pieces sit on top of long-standing law: the Merit System Principles already require fair, open competition and selection "solely on the basis of relative ability, knowledge, and skills," and the prohibited personnel practices bar discrimination—standards agencies must still meet as they implement this EO.** *In other words, merit-based hiring isn't new; the legal floor has existed for decades. So, what is this EO about?* Turning this into a viewpoint or political-loyalty screen risks violating PPPs (no discrimination based on political affiliation; no coercion of political activity) and runs into First Amendment rights.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implements the workforce chapter's vision: accelerate hiring, deemphasize DEI, and demand the civil service workers align with administration priorities.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Fast process changes stress small HR shops in Montana-based federal field offices and can disadvantage rural/tribal applicants if outreach shrinks. Field office capacity: Montana's federal workforce is roughly **13,500 jobs**. These small HR offices in USFS/BLM/USDA/VA will be asked to deliver new assessments, faster timelines, and more applicant communication without new resources.
Equal-opportunity guardrails still apply: Hiring must remain **merit-based and nondiscriminatory**; managers cannot consider protected traits, and they must ensure **fair and open competition**—including in rural and Tribal outreach—under **5 U.S.C. §§ 2301–2302** and related rules. Legal Information Institute+2Legal Information Institute+2

Critical service footprints: VA Montana employs about **1,200** across a statewide network (≈18 sites). Any hiring slowdowns or missteps will be felt by Veterans and rural clinics; conversely, well-executed skills-based hiring could speed fills for hard-to-staff roles. Veterans Affairs+1

Wildland & recreation seasons: USFS/NPS staffing has been volatile in 2025; tighter time-to-hire could help if resourced, but cuts or rushed processes can leave gaps ahead of fire and visitor seasons.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources
USFS/BLM hiring cycles in MT forests and ranges must retool mid-season, remain with insufficient staff.

Rural Health & Clinics
VA/Indian Health recruiting may face interim slowdowns as processes reset.

Tribal Nations
Risk that fewer postings reach tribal colleges or are open long enough for local applicants.

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Veterans preference remains, but process volatility can deter applicants.

Why It Matters
Rural agencies already struggle to staff hard-to-fill jobs with qualified applicants. Process overhauls help **if** resourced, but no resources come with these demands—vacancy time lengthens.

EO 14171 - Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions Within the Federal Workforce

Overview
Reinstates and amends EO 13957 (2020)—the former "Schedule F"—by creating "Schedule Policy/Career" for positions of a confidential/policy-influencing character, *instructs OPM to rescind conflicting 2024 civil-service protections, and even holds specified CFR parts inoperative pending rescission. Rapid reclassification can convert career roles into excepted-service positions with fewer procedural protections.* Expected problems: chilling effect on scientific/land-management staff in MT (USDA, USFS, BLM, EPA), plus staffing churn if roles are relabeled.

Project 2025 Alignment
Central to the "personnel is policy" agenda.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Restore "accountability" for policy-influencing personnel; ensure they faithfully implement administration policy. The White House

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Reclassification pressure** on analysts and supervisors in MT-based field offices.
- **Hiring/retention** risk if protections are perceived as weaker; union/appeal pathways narrowed.
- **Grant/permit** calls may tilt toward political leadership over technical staff, all you have to do is parrot the administration.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Technical decisions on grazing, timber, NEPA reviews face staff turnover risk.

Rural Health & Clinics
Indirect: program officers at VA/IHS/USDA health grants may rotate more quickly.

Tribal Nations
Tribal consultation quality can suffer if experienced career staff are reassigned or removed.

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Service reliability dips if vacancies and turnover rise in local federal offices.

Why It Matters
Expands presidential control over policy-shaping civil servants and accelerates removals; in MT that maps to loyalty to president over knowledge and qualifications in field scientists, rangers, and specialists whose analysis influences federal decisions on land, water, wildlife. Montana depends on stable, expert career staff for day-to-day federal work on land, water, and permits. Schedule changes that politicize those roles create turbulence where continuity matters most.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
OPM (rules/rescissions), OMB; DOI/USDA/EPA/USFS field units in MT.

Legal / Policy Anchors
Reinstates/amends **EO 13957**; instructs OPM to rescind conflicting **5 CFR** revisions; notes inoperative CFR parts pending change.

Sources: White House text; FR listing; OPM guidance memo (implementation details).

EO 14172 - Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness

Overview
Directs agencies to restore or adopt "traditional American" names for geographic features, places, and federal assets; reverses recent renaming deemed "politicized." DOI and other agencies must update maps, rules, signage, and data systems accordingly. A follow-on DOI rule, for example, implemented the order by renaming the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, signaling practical downstream updates to codes, charts, and documents nationwide. In Montana, that kind of federal renaming posture collides with state/tribal place-name work (e.g., Blackfeet/CSKT initiatives) and creates unfunded signage and mapping costs for parks and public-land units.

Project 2025 Alignment: (implied)
National-identity/heritage framing; centralizes naming authority in the Executive and deprioritizes recent inclusion-driven changes (including tribal language restoration). Relevance for MT: tensions with tribal naming, historical interpretation, and federal-state coordination on maps and signage.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Reinforce national heritage by restoring "honorific" names and removing politically driven changes.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Public lands & parks:** USFS/NPS/BLM units in MT must update wayfinding, interpretive panels, digital maps, and law-enforcement databases.
- **Tribal relations:** Tribal naming initiatives compete with top-down federal renames, risking erasure of Indigenous place names and local consensus processes.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Minimal on production; moderate on land-management mapping and emergency response datasets.

Rural Health & Clinics
911/EMS and public-health wayfinding (addresses, trailheads) require updates over time.

Tribal Nations
Naming sovereignty and language revitalization efforts face federal override pressure.

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Schools and museums must swap out curricular and exhibit materials on thin budgets.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Symbolic renames carry real costs—signage, maps, databases, curricula—borne by parks, schools, counties, and Tribes with little spare funding. And when D.C. picks names without local consent, Montana loses hard-won progress reconciling history with present-day community values. The practical risk: confusion in navigation/search and rescue; the cultural risk: erasure of Indigenous names, history and stories.

Sources & References
Federal Register (EO text, 90 FR 8629–8631); DOI final rule implementing the rename directive; Presidency Project text.

Executive Order 14173 - Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity

Overview

EO 14173 eliminates federal programs that use race- or gender-conscious measures in hiring, contracting, grants, education, or public services. It repeals prior DEI directives, bans affirmative-action frameworks in federal employment and procurement, and instructs DOJ to deter and litigate "illegal DEI" in the private sector. Civil-rights statutes (Title VI, Title VII) technically remain, but the contract-based compliance system that made those laws enforceable is dismantled. Early agency memos show rapid Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs pullbacks, suspension of equity guidance, and new certification language that has already created compliance uncertainty for universities, hospital systems, Tribes, nonprofits, and contractors in MT.

Montana Impact Summary

The EO removes the structured DEI guardrails that helped ensure non-discrimination in hiring, contracting, outreach, and service delivery. Without those frameworks—particularly the revocation of EO 11246 (federal contractor obligations) and EO 12898 (with environmental justice requirements missing, creating a vacuum) institutions lose clear rules, data-collection expectations, and predictable dispute-resolution channels. For Montana, where small HR teams, rural districts, Tribal governments, and community colleges rely on predictable federal standards, the result is **higher compliance costs, greater litigation risk, and fewer tools to identify or remedy discrimination.** Montana received ~$14.1B in federal obligations in FY2024. Ambiguous new "illegal DEI" certifications in grants and contracts cause universities, Tribes, health systems, and construction firms to pause programs, hire legal counsel, or over-correct—even when their outreach is lawful. *(Montana Nonprofit Association; USA spending MT profile)*. Routine Equal Employment Opportunity clauses that once guided training, recruitment, and vendor relations no longer have clear federal backstops. *(GSA; Federal Register)*. In rural Montana, inconsistent interpretation by contracting officers creates uncertainty for small employers with limited compliance capacity. **Montana's rural, Tribal, veteran-serving, and low-income communities absorb more friction and cost**, as remedies shift from proactive conciliation to reactive litigation. *(MNA/Headwaters Report, 2025; Washington Post).*

Project 2025 Alignment - Directly aligned. EO 14173 advances the Project 2025 agenda to abolish diversity offices, end affirmative action, defund equity programs, revoke environmental-justice mandates, and replace evidence-based civil-rights enforcement with "colorblind" administrative control. This mirrors Project 2025's core goal: **dismantling civil-rights enforcement by redefining it as discrimination** and shifting authority into the executive branch without democratic guardrails.

Why It Matters

Montana depends heavily on federal dollars, rural pipelines, Tribal partnerships, and clear compliance rules. Removing the frameworks that documented bias and prevented civil-rights violations leaves communities without practical remedies. It also erases the environmental-justice protections that helped safeguard Tribal Nations and rural residents from disproportionate impacts of energy and infrastructure projects.

Agencies Affected

- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission • Department of Labor (including OFCCP) • Dept of Education • Department of Justice • All Executive Branch Agencies

Notes & Legal Conflicts

Civil-rights groups, higher-education associations, and labor organizations have filed lawsuits alleging conflicts with equal-protection principles and statutory mandates. Contractors warn that the EO increases liability exposure by removing the compliance structure that previously clarified expectations and resolved disputes without litigation.

EO 14174 - Revocation of Certain Executive Orders

Overview
Revokes COVID-era contractor/employee vaccine EOs (EO 14042 and EO 14043), signaling a broader rollback of workplace public-health conditions within federal operations and contracting. In Montana, universities, hospitals, and small contractors that had built compliance systems see those efforts deprecated without clear guidance on what replaces them during future surges.

See *Appendix - All the previous Executive Orders Revoked by EO 14148.*

Project 2025 Alignment: (implied)
"Deregulatory" posture for workplace mandates; recenters discretion on employers/agencies rather than federal baselines.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Remove "burdensome and obsolete" COVID requirements and harmonize procurement.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Procurement/HR:** paperwork shrinks for some; but playbooks for future outbreaks vanish, pushing risk management to local entities.
- **Liability:** unclear standards can heighten legal exposure for hospitals/contractors during health events.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Minimal direct impact.

Rural Health & Clinics
Critical-access hospitals lose a federal backstop for surge protocols.

Tribal Nations
Tribal health partners face mixed rules across federal and Tribal facilities.

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Vulnerable populations rely on consistent public-health rules; fragmentation creates uncertainty.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
When federal baselines disappear, **small employers and rural hospitals** inherit the risk calculus—without the epidemiologists. That may save compliance time today but increases **policy whiplash** and liability in the next outbreak.

Sources & References
Federal Register (Revocation EO posting); Public Inspection PDF with the revocation text; Presidency Project entry. Federal Register+2Federal Register Public Inspection+2

EO 14175 - Designation of Ansar Allah as a Foreign Terrorist Organization

Overview
Initiates the process to designate **Ansar Allah (Houthis)** as an FTO, triggering enhanced sanctions/immigration tools and related OFAC compliance ripples throughout shipping and finance. For Montana, the direct link is markets: the Red Sea/Gulf disruptions tied to Houthi actions and sanctions risk have knock-on effects on **freight, fuel, and fertilizer**—all key farm inputs—plus wheat export logistics to MENA buyers.

Project 2025 Alignment: (Implied)
Hard-line sanctions/enforcement posture; aligns with using terrorism designations to constrain adversaries via finance/insurance. MT relevance: cost volatility in diesel, parts, and outbound grain shipping.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Protect U.S. security and commerce by using FTO tools against a destabilizing actor.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Insurance & lanes:** shipping surcharges/route changes raise global freight costs.
- **Inputs:** fertilizer and diesel pricing move with maritime risk; rural suppliers pass costs through.
- **Compliance:** community banks and co-ops encounter tighter screening on wires tied to affected regions.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Farm budgets squeezed by input/freight volatility; export margins thin for wheat/pulses.

Rural Health & Clinics
Higher fuel costs raise med-supply logistics and patient travel costs.

Tribal Nations
Tribal ag operations face the same cost shocks with fewer buffers.

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Fixed-income households feel fuel spikes immediately.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Foreign-policy moves far away can land as **price spikes** on Main Street—at the pump, the feed store, and the co-op. Designations may be justified on security grounds, but small farm states like Montana pay rapidly through higher freight and input bills.

Sources & References
Federal Register posting; Presidency Project and govinfo texts outlining the INA §219 path. Federal Register+2The American Presidency Project+2

EO 14176 - Declassification of Records Concerning the Assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Overview
Directs expedited declassification and public release of JFK/RFK/MLK records consistent with the **JFK Records Act** standards (harm test vs. public interest), tasking NARA/DOJ/IC with timelines and reporting. Impact in Montana is mostly indirect: school curricula, libraries, and local media draw on new primary sources; agencies and universities field more FOIA and research queries.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implied. Transparency frame + re-litigation of historic narratives; not a central P2025 plank but consistent with repositioning federal archives access.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Maximize lawful transparency on historically significant events.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Universities & schools: curriculum updates; research seminars; faculty/media requests.
Agencies/archives: FOIA load increases; small staffs must triage.

Impact On Montana
Agriculture & Natural Resources
None.
Rural Health & Clinics
None.
Tribal Nations
Minimal direct; potential research tie-ins on civil-rights history.
Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
Students gain access to declassified material; community interest spikes.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO will not move farm prices or clinic budgets—but it **does** matter for civic trust. When records are released promptly and exPlained clearly, local classrooms and newsrooms can push back against conspiracy churn with primary sources. When releases lag—or are sloppy—**distrust grows**, and small institutions in Montana end up fielding the fallout with limited resources.

Sources & References
Federal Register (90 FR 8641–8642); Presidency Project overview of the JFK Records Act context. Federal Register+1

EO 14177 - President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST)

Overview
Re-establishes PCAST and resets its membership/mandate. On paper, this is about getting high-level science advice to the President; in practice, it determines which research areas rise or fall in federal priority. For Montana, that means the tone and topics PCAST elevates will influence MSU/UM grant calls (energy, AI, wildfire, ag tech) and which agency programs thrive or thin out.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Centralizes federal science direction and privileges "national strength/industrial policy" frames consistent with Project 2025's push to steer R&D toward administration priorities (and away from equity-oriented programs). Heritage Foundation

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Provide timely, independent science and tech advice.
- Align federal R&D with national priorities. Federal Register

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Grant targeting:** Topics PCAST highlights are likelier to see solicitations; others may quietly shrink.
- **Campus impact:** MSU/UM labs in wildfire modeling, range science, and rural health informatics watchlists for shifts in NSF/DOE/HHS calls.
- **Industry partnerships:** Ag-tech and energy pilots in Montana follow the money—PCAST emphasis can shape which pilots continue.

Impact On Montana
Agriculture & Natural Resources: Priorities like precision ag, water modeling, and wildfire analytics either get boosted—or sidelined.
Rural Health & Clinics: If PCAST de-emphasizes digital equity, telehealth/AI triage pilots may see fewer grants.
Tribal Nations: Tribal-serving STEM initiatives risk deprioritization if not favored in top-down agenda setting.
Veterans/Students/Low-Income/Seniors: Fellowship pipelines and student research jobs ebb/flow with PCAST's topic signals.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Who sits on (and guides) PCAST helps decide which ideas get federal fuel. In a grant-dependent state, subtle shifts in DC can translate to real choices on the ground—continuing a wildfire data lab, replacing a retiring research nurse, or pausing a water-quality sensor network.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces)
NSF, DOE, HHS/NIH, USDA; Montana University System; Montana Dept. of Commerce (innovation grants).

Legal / Policy Anchors
Issued under Presidential authority; **revokes EO 14007 (2021)** to reset PCAST under this administration.

Sources
Federal Register EO 14177; Project 2025: *Mandate for Leadership* (program-prioritization themes). Federal Register+1

EO 14178 - Strengthening American Leadership in Digital Financial Technology

Overview
Reorients federal policy toward crypto/digital assets and "FinTech leadership," rolling back the prior administration's cautionary framework. For Montana, that signals looser guardrails around products that can touch community banks, credit unions, and even public funds—raising upside for innovation but also volatility and fraud-risk exposure.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implied. Matches Project 2025's deregulatory financial posture and enthusiasm for alternative assets/market liberalization. Heritage Foundation

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Promote U.S. leadership in digital financial technology.
- Streamline regulation seen as "stifling innovation."

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Fintech exposure:** MT banks/credit unions field more pitches for custody/payment rails with operational and compliance risk.
- **Public funds:** Pension/treasury stakeholders face pressure to "modernize" allocations or payment systems.
- **Consumer risk:** Rural residents can be targeted by high-risk products with fewer federal frictions.

Effective-by / Deliverables
- **Revokes EO 14067 (2022)** (digital assets roadmap), immediately replacing the prior framework; agencies are directed to update guidance accordingly.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Payment/hedging tools may proliferate—along with counterparty risk.
- **Rural Health & Clinics:** Billing/claims fintech pilots could shift rapidly, creating transition costs.
- **Tribal Nations:** Sovereign fintech partnerships may be pitched aggressively; diligence burden rises.
- **Veterans/Students/Low-Income/Seniors:** Fraud vulnerability increases without robust consumer guardrails.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Innovation hype flows fast to rural states—but resolution of losses does not. Without careful state-level guardrails, Main Street can be the test bed for products designed in boardrooms far away.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces)
Treasury/FinCEN, SEC/CFTC, CFPB; MT Division of Banking & Financial Institutions; MPERA/TRS.

Legal / Policy Anchors
Presidential direction on supervision/prudential coordination; revocation of prior EO 14067 resets agency posture. Federal Register

Sources
Federal Register EO 14178; Project 2025: *Mandate for Leadership* (financial deregulation themes). Federal Register+1

EO 14179 - Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence

Overview
Directs agencies to eliminate "barriers" to AI adoption and revises the federal AI posture—explicitly rolling back the prior administration's AI order. For Montana (UM/MSU, tribal colleges, rural clinics), the biggest practical change is fewer federal expectations for bias-mitigation and safety assurance in projects tied to federal dollars. californiawaterviews.com

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Tracks Project 2025's anti-"woke AI" thrust and preference for "neutral, performance-based" metrics over fairness and equity objectives. Heritage Foundation

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Speed federal AI adoption and U.S. leadership.
- Remove "ideological" constraints from AI funding/use. californiawaterviews.com

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Campus grants:** AI ethics/fairness components are less fundable; applied wildfire/telehealth projects may be redesigned to downplay equity outcomes.
- **Procurement:** State/federal field offices in MT can buy/use tools with fewer bias-testing expectations.
- **Workforce:** Student/fellowship lines shift from responsible-AI to deployment-first projects.

Impact On Montana
Agriculture & Natural Resources: Fire spread and drought models emphasize speed/accuracy metrics over community-impact safeguards.
Rural Health & Clinics: Triage/diagnostic tools may be adopted faster—with fewer checks for disparate error rates.
Tribal Nations: Reduced emphasis on inclusive datasets/guardrails can worsen model performance for Native communities.
Veterans/Students/Low-Income/Seniors: Accessibility/fairness features risk being treated as "optional," not baseline.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
AI that ignores bias doesn't become neutral—it becomes unreliable for the people least represented in the data. Rural and tribal Montanans are often exactly those people.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces)
NSF, DOE, HHS; Montana University System; state/tribal health partners.

Legal / Policy Anchors
Article II direction; prior order revoked; procurement and grantmaking guidance to be updated. californiawaterviews.com

Sources
Federal Register EO 14179; Project 2025: *Mandate for Leadership* (technology/DEI rollback themes). Federal Register+1

EO 14180 - Council To Assess the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Overview
Creates a council to assess FEMA's structure and recent performance, with tight timelines for public meetings and a report. In Montana—where floods, fires, and ice storms are routine—the assessment's recommendations could reshape grants, staff allocations, and how rural counties navigate disaster aid.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implied. Consistent with calls to "right-size" civil agencies, centralize executive direction, and push more responsibility to states/localities without guaranteed funding increases. Heritage Foundation

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Review FEMA's organization, hiring, and recent disaster response outcomes.
- Recommend reforms to improve speed and accountability.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Grant friction:** Rule changes could narrow eligibility or raise documentation burdens for small counties/tribes with thin admin staff.
- **Staffing:** Fewer field deployments or slower reimbursements would hit rural jurisdictions first.
- **Match requirements:** Potential shift of costs to local budgets already stretched in frontier counties.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Wildfire and flood mitigation grants (HMGP/BRIC) could tighten.
- **Rural Health & Clinics:** Longer disaster reimbursements strain critical access hospitals.
- **Tribal Nations:** Capacity-limited emergency offices risk being left behind if paperwork bar rises.
- **Veterans/Students/Low-Income/Seniors:** Delays in housing/utility aid after disasters disproportionately harm fixed-income households.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Process changes decide who actually gets help after a fire or flood. If "efficiency" becomes code for fewer field staff and more paperwork, rural Montana will be the first to feel it.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces)
DHS/FEMA; Montana DES; county EMs; tribal emergency managers.

Legal / Policy Anchors
Presidential authority to establish advisory councils and direct interagency review; report timelines set in the EO. Federal Register

Sources
Federal Register EO 14180; Project 2025: *Mandate for Leadership* (agency-restructuring themes). Federal Register+1

EO 14181 - Emergency Measures To Provide Water Resources in California and Improve Disaster Response in Certain Areas

Overview
Orders federal agencies to **expedite water deliveries to Southern California**, including by overriding state/local policies and accelerating ESA/NEPA actions tied to CVP/SWP operations. Although California-focused, it sets precedents for federal override of water, species, and disaster policies that Western states—including Montana—depend on.

Project 2025 Alignment - Implied
Aligns with a strong executive posture to bypass environmental processes viewed as "unduly burdensome," prioritizing rapid infrastructure/energy-adjacent actions. Heritage Foundation

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Ensure adequate water resources for SoCal wildfire response and resilience.
- Override "harmful" state/local policies that impede deliveries.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Precedent risk:** If ESA/NEPA "overrides" become normalized for California water, similar logic could truncate review in Northern Rockies projects.
- **Budget diversion:** Rapid Federal focus on LA disasters can redirect limited grant/response staffing away from rural states.
- **Policy template:** Agencies may cite 14181 to justify aggressive executive interventions elsewhere.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** If ESA exemptions/process shortcuts are generalized, habitat and watershed reviews in MT could be compressed.
- **Rural Health & Clinics:** Disaster dollars/staff attention could tilt toward high-profile metros.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal water and species consultations risk being sidelined under "expedited" models.
- **Veterans/Students/Low-Income/Seniors:** Disaster-aid prioritization elsewhere can slow recovery in MT after fires/floods.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Western water fights are contagious. What starts as a California "emergency" playbook can become the template that trims review and local say when big projects roll into the Northern Rockies.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces)
Interior/Bureau of Reclamation, USDA/USFS; DHS/FEMA; EPA; Montana DNRC & DEQ (coordination impacts).

Legal / Policy Anchors
Invokes emergency posture and directs ESA/NEPA-related actions "notwithstanding" state/local policies; multiple dated deliverables.

Sources
Federal Register EO 14181; Project 2025: *Mandate for Leadership* (environmental streamlining themes). Federal Register+1

EO 14182 - Enforcing the Hyde Amendment.

Overview
Revokes EO 14076 and EO 14079 and directs OMB to issue government-wide guidance implementing a strict Hyde standard (no federal funds for elective abortion except longstanding exceptions). In practice this reaches into Medicaid billing, Title X, IHS/tribal clinics, VA/DoD care policies, and federal grant conditions—areas that shape access in rural Montana where long travel distances, staffing shortages, and clinic deserts already constrain care.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Mirrors Mandate themes to restrict federal support for abortion and unwind prior protections.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
End "forced taxpayer funding" of elective abortion; restore uniform compliance with Hyde.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Medicaid & Title X:** Stricter federal billing and grant rules increase documentation/denial risk for rural clinics.
- **Tribal care:** IHS facilities serving Blackfeet, Crow, and Northern Cheyenne face tighter federal compliance checks tied to Hyde exceptions.
- **Telehealth/mail:** Programs that used broad "access" framing under prior EOs lose support and legal cover.

Impact On Montana
Rural Health & Clinics – Compliance overhead for frontier clinics; greater referral travel burdens; fewer covered services.
Tribal Nations – IHS/638 clinics face stricter federal audits; delays increase out-of-pocket travel to urban providers.
Students/Low-Income/Seniors – Higher costs and longer wait/drive times; care deferrals escalate downstream health risks.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This doesn't *create* a state ban, but it tightens every federal funding and paperwork screw. In a state where a single nurse or counselor can cover hundreds of students and many counties lack specialty providers, "paper cuts" become real barriers—especially for Native women and low-income families.

Agencies affected (MT relevance)
OMB (guidance), HHS/HRSA (Title X, FQHCs), CMS (Medicaid), IHS, VA, DoD health programs.

Legal/Policy Anchors & effective-by
Revokes: EO 14076 & EO 14079. **Action:** OMB "shall promulgate guidance" agency-wide (no explicit deadline in text).

Sources
Federal Register entry and revocations text. Federal Register

EO 14183 - Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness

Overview
Bans service by people who identify with a gender different from their sex and orders DoD to purge related policies and pronoun practices; Coast Guard must mirror DoD changes. Montana touchpoints include the **MT Army/Air National Guard**, **ROTC** at MSU/UM, and families tied to **Malmstrom AFB (Great Falls)**.

Project 2025 Alignment:
Direct. Implements anti-DEI/anti-"gender ideology" planks in the Armed Forces.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Restore "unit cohesion," "lethality," and "uniformity" by eliminating "gender ideology" from DoD policy.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Guard/ROTC:** Immediate policy rewrites affect enlistment, retention, facilities, and training norms.
- **Recruiting & retention:** Smaller rural recruiting pools; legal uncertainty creates churn.
- **Campus climate:** ROTC/DoD-funded programs at MSU/UM must align with new pronoun/facilities rules.

Impact On Montana

Veterans & Service Members – Trans service members face separation or reassignment; families absorb housing/benefits shocks.

Students – ROTC pipelines narrowed; some scholarships/placements jeopardized.

Tribal Nations – Tribal Guard members face additional administrative scrutiny in small units.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Guard units and Malmstrom are embedded in local economies. Forced policy swings shrink recruiting classes, trigger litigation/HR time, and destabilize benefits—costs that land on small communities that can't easily replace lost personnel.

Sources
FR text & DoD guidance memo. Federal Register+1

EO 14184 - Reinstating Service Members Discharged Under the Military's COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate

Overview
Orders DoD/Coast Guard to offer reinstatement with back pay/benefits to members separated solely for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine (and allows certain voluntary separators to return). For Montana, the effects run through Malmstrom AFB, MT National Guard, and DoD-connected civilian jobs.

Project 2025 Alignment:
Implied. Fits the "reverse COVID mandates/restore careers" narrative, though not a top-line plank.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Correct "wrongful dismissals" and restore readiness.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Personnel churn: Reinstatements alter manning at small units; back-pay processing strains S-shops.
Medical/readiness: Return-to-duty screenings, MOS/AFSC requalification, and assignment availability all add workload.
Community: Benefit reinstatement (TRICARE, BAH) shifts local clinic & housing demand.

Impact On Montana
Rural Health & Clinics – TRICARE re-enrollment increases claims volume at rural providers.
Veterans/Guard Families – Pay/benefits disputes may require local legal/ombudsman help.
Students/Low-Income – Guard members who left school for service decisions could face tuition/housing recalculations.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Small bases and Guard units feel every personnel swing. Reinstating even a modest number of members means reassignments, back-pay audits, and training seats—administrative weight that lands on already thin staffs in Great Falls, Helena, and county armories.

Sources
Federal Register text. Federal Register

EO 14185 - Restoring America's Fighting Force

Overview
Abolishes DoD/USCG DEI offices and bars instruction in defined "divisive concepts" or "gender ideology," including at Service Academies. Requires quick implementation guidance and a 180-day progress review—affecting ROTC detachments at **MSU/UM**, Guard schools, and DoD-funded programs that serve many Montana students.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Operationalizes anti-DEI education/training language in defense institutions.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
End race/sex "preferences" and refocus on meritocracy/war-fighting.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Program cuts:** Outreach, mentoring, and transition programs with DEI elements curtailed.
- **Academics/training:** ROTC curricula/guest speakers reviewed or removed; compliance record-keeping added.
- **Contracting:** University centers with diversity requirements face grant churn.

Impact On Montana
Students & Cadets – Fewer scholarships/mentoring pipelines for under-represented students; uncertainty over campus speakers/courses.
Veterans – Transition/hiring programs that used DEI-tied funding may be pared back.
Tribal Nations – Tribal student pipelines to ROTC/Guard lose tailored supports.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Montana relies on ROTC and Guard pathways to keep talent in-state. Scrapping support structures without replacing them widens the gap between well-resourced urban academies and rural campuses where a single staffer juggles recruiting, compliance, and counseling.

Legal/Policy Anchors & effective-by
- **Immediate:** "Abolish every DEI office" at DoD/USCG.
- **Within 30 days:** Implementation guidance from DoD & DHS (USCG).
- **Within 180 days:** Progress reports to the White House.

Sources
Federal Register text (definitions, abolitions, timelines). Federal Register

EO 14186 - The Iron Dome for America

Overview
Directs DoD to deliver a **reference architecture** and **implementation plan** for a next-gen homeland missile defense shield, including space sensors and potential **space-based interceptors**, plus a funding plan coordinated with OMB in time for the FY-2026 budget. Afterward, DoD must reassess allied/theater missile defense posture. For Montana, likely touchpoints include **Malmstrom AFB** (ICBM mission), range/airspace, and siting of radars or communications nodes—along with budget tradeoffs that can squeeze non-defense programs.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implied. Aligns with "peace through strength," missile-defense expansion, and industrial policy planks.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Deploy and maintain a shield against ballistic/hypersonic/cruise threats; ensure second-strike.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Siting candidates:** High-Plains geography and existing nuclear infrastructure put MT on shortlists for sensing/comm nodes (not decided, but plausible given tasking to identify "prioritized locations").
- **Budget tradeoffs:** Rapid procurement timelines pressure other federal accounts that matter in rural Montana (clinics, grants, infrastructure).
- **Industry:** Defense primes/subs may scout suppliers; small shops face compliance hurdles.

Impact On Montana
Agriculture & Natural Resources – Possible land-use conflicts if radar/comm sites or easements are proposed.
Veterans & Workforce – Some high-skill jobs, but security clearances and cyber standards limit local participation.
Tribal Nations – Any siting near tribal lands triggers consultation; past experiences show process burdens even when sites are rejected.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
If MT is shortlisted, communities will be asked to weigh security benefits against land-use, wildlife, and economic tradeoffs. Even without a site, the large price tag competes with rural funding streams that keep clinics open and roads plowed.

Sources
Federal Register text (Sec. 3 implementation tasks). Federal Register

EO 14187 - Protecting Children From Chemical and Surgical Mutilation

Overview
Restricts federal support for gender-affirming care for minors and orders agencies to unwind policies that rely on WPATH guidance. Sets rapid timelines for HHS literature review and cross-agency implementation. For Montana, the flashpoints are Medicaid/CHIP coverage, FEHB/PSHB plan designs used by federal employees in Montana, TRICARE families near Malmstrom/Guard units, and rural pediatric capacity.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Mirrors Heritage "Mandate for Leadership" themes on redefining sex in federal programs and curtailing LGBTQ+-inclusive health policy; expects HHS/DoD/OPM to realign coverage and guidance. (See Heritage Mandate; health/HHS chapters.)

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
End federal funding or support for "chemical and surgical mutilation" of children and rescind reliance on WPATH standards.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Coverage & billing:** HHS is directed to use Medicare/Medicaid conditions of participation, §1557, and other levers to restrict coverage; OPM to exclude pediatric gender-affirming care from FEHB/PSHB call letters; DoD to exclude such care from TRICARE.
- **Deadlines:** HHS literature review due within 90 days; multi-agency progress report due within 60 days.

Impact On Montana

Rural Health & Clinics
Possible **Medicaid/CHIP** coverage changes for youth services; rural clinics face compliance updates and referral gaps.

Tribal Nations
Clinic funding/§1557 compliance shifts could reduce access at IHS/tribal partner sites unless Montana-specific accommodations are clarified.

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
TRICARE families (Malmstrom AFB/Guard) face coverage exclusions for minors; school-based mental-health partners encounter referral uncertainty.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Policy changes arrive via fast federal deadlines, but rural capacity to retool care pathways is limited. Regardless of one's views, sudden exclusions move costs to families, county health, and school counselors—systems already stretched outside major metros.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
HHS/CMS; OPM (FEHB/PSHB carriers in MT); DoD (TRICARE); MT DPHHS; IHS/tribal clinics.

Legal / Policy Anchors
Article II; directs actions under Medicare/Medicaid regs and **§1557** civil-rights framework; DoD/OPM plan design authority.

Sources & References
Federal Register EO 14187; Heritage Mandate. Federal Register+2Heritage Foundation+2

EO 14188 - Additional Measures To Combat Anti-Semitism

Overview
Directs DOJ/ED/Homeland Security and others to strengthen policies and enforcement against antisemitism; requires an **initial agency report within 60 days** to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy. For Montana schools, nonprofits, and campuses, the pressure point is how definitions, reporting, and grant conditions are applied.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implied. Aligns with heritage themes of campus discipline and speech regulation via federal levers; not a verbatim plank but consistent with re-prioritizing enforcement on campus speech and safety. Heritage Foundation

Stated Goal
Enhance federal response to antisemitism across education, civil-rights, and security programs.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **ED/DOJ**: More investigations, guidance to districts and campuses; potential conditions on grants.
- **Local orgs**: Nonprofits hosting events face tighter security/reporting expectations. 60-day reporting clock started on publication.

Impact On Montana
Education & School Systems
- Districts and UM/MSU may face **new reporting & training mandates**; small compliance teams in rural districts feel the squeeze.

Tribal Nations & Community Orgs
- Cultural events on public facilities could see added review and security protocols, with budget impacts for small hosts.

Rural Health & Clinics
- Minimal direct clinical effect; some grant conditions (youth programs) may require updated policies.

Why It Matters
Montana institutions support safety and inclusion—but added federal paperwork without funding strains small districts and nonprofits. Clear, consistent definitions and technical assistance will determine whether this helps or just adds red tape.

Agencies Affected
DOJ/CRD; ED/OCR; DHS; MT OPI; UM/MSU.

EO 14189 - Celebrating America's 250th Birthday

Overview
Creates Task Force 250 (chaired by the President; housed at DoD) to coordinate the 2026 semiquincentennial; reinstates EO 13933 (monuments) and EO 13978 (National Garden); requires agencies to submit plans by March 1, 2025; Task Force sunsets Dec 31, 2026. For Montana, impacts are symbolic plus possible grant/staff diversions toward national events.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implied. Echoes "patriotic education/heritage" themes and a prominent federal role in national symbolism. Heritage Foundation

Stated Goal
Coordinate a "grand celebration" for July 4, 2026; protect monuments; expand the National Garden list to 250 "heroes."

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Agency plans** due **Mar 1, 2025**; DoD provides admin support.
- **Reinstated monument orders** may influence how federal land managers in MT handle protests and preservation.

Impact On Montana

Education & Youth / Community Orgs
Expect federal comms and event tie-ins; limited direct funding unless specifically granted.

Tribal Nations
Monument policy can intersect with tribal heritage and naming—sensitive in Glacier/Yellowstone gateway communities.

Rural Operations
Potential staffing reassignments for national-event support (TSA/airspace, USPP/DoD liaison) could mean opportunity costs in rural service.

Why It Matters
Good civic programming can unite communities—but **symbolic priorities can redirect finite staff dollars**. For small Montana programs, even modest diversions show up as shorter hours or delayed grants.

Agencies Affected
DoD (hosting Task Force); NEH/NEA/IMLS; Interior; Education; MT partners via federal pass-throughs. Federal Register

Sources & References
Federal Register EO 14189. Federal Register

EO 14190 - Ending Radical Indoctrination in K–12 Schooling

Overview
Directs ED to issue guidance to "eliminate funding for radical indoctrination" in K-12, strengthen "parental rights," and produce a national strategy; 90-day clock for several deliverables; re-establishes a 1776 Commission within 120 days. For Montana, practical effects are new ED guidance touching curricula, grants, and complaint processes—landing on small district compliance teams.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Tracks Heritage's K–12 planks: curtail DEI-aligned content, elevate "patriotic" curricula, and use federal levers (grants/guidance) to pressure districts. Heritage Foundation

Stated Goal
Purge "radical indoctrination," elevate parental rights, and restore "accurate" civics/history content.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Within 90 days**: ED risk-assessment, grant-program review, strategy to eliminate funding for targeted content.
- **Within 120 days**: Establish 1776 Commission successor.

Impact On Montana
Education & School Systems
Expect **new ED guidance** that may affect ESEA/Title I discretionary priorities and monitoring; small rural districts face rule-tracking burdens.
Tribal Nations
Curricular guidance can collide with **tribal language/history standards** and local control—sensitive for Blackfeet, Crow, and CSKT schools.
Students & Families
More investigations/complaints workflows without added admin dollars; potential chilling around inclusive programs.

Why It Matters
Montana values local control. National culture-war directives can substitute paperwork for support, making it harder for understaffed districts to focus on attendance, reading, and counseling that actually move the needle.

Agencies Affected
ED (OESE/OCR); MT OPI; local school boards.

Sources & References
Federal Register EO 14190. Federal Register

EO 14191 - Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families

Overview
Accelerates school-choice implementation using existing federal funds: orders ED to issue within 60 days guidance on how states can use formula funds for choice; within 90 days Labor & ED to propose discretionary-grant priorities; DoD and Interior must plan within 90 days to let military-connected and BIE-eligible families use funds for non-district options starting 2025–26. In Montana, watch BIE-eligible students, Guard/active-duty families, and Title-funded programs in small districts.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Implements Project 2025's voucher/ESA expansion via guidance and grant priorities; BIE and military-family provisions show the breadth of the shift. Heritage Foundation+1

Stated Goal
Support parents' authority to choose schooling; use federal programs to expand "education freedom."

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **ED guidance (60 days):** How to channel federal formula funds toward choice initiatives.
- **Labor/ED (90 days):** Re-prioritize discretionary grants.
- **DoD (90 days):** Identify mechanisms for military-connected families to use DoD funds for chosen schools by 2025–26.
- **Interior/BIE (90 days):** Options for families eligible for BIE schools to use federal funds for private/charter options by 2025–26.

Impact On Montana
Education & School Systems
Title-funded small districts could lose students and dollars to new choice pathways, while fixed costs remain. Admin load rises (eligibility, procurement, audits) with limited staff.
Tribal Nations
BIE-eligible students: Funds may flow to off-reservation private/charter options—resource drain from tribal schools unless backfilled.
Military Families
Guard/active-duty households could redirect funds outside local districts; impacts enrollments near Malmstrom/Guard hubs.
Low-Income & Rural Families
Choice without transportation/support services risks unequal access; rural geography limits actual options.

Why It Matters
If dollars follow students, **rural and tribal schools can tip below viability** even when most families stay put. Without transportation, special-ed, and counseling supports, "choice" may function more as **reallocation** than improvement.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
ED; DoD (education benefits for military families); Interior/BIE; MT OPI; local districts.

Sources & References
Federal Register EO 14191; ED press background on expanding choice guidance. Federal Register+1

EO 14192 - Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation

Overview
Reinstates a "regulatory budget," requiring agencies to **repeal at least 10 rules for each new one**, keep FY2025 total regulatory costs *"significantly less than zero,"* and restores the **2003 OMB Circular A-4** while revoking the 2023 update. It also revives Treasury–OMB special review of tax rules. Expect faster repeal pipelines and narrower analyses of downstream equity or rural impacts.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Mirrors the Mandate's call for aggressive regulatory cuts, centralized OMB control of rulemaking, and reinstating pre-2023 cost–benefit guidance.

Stated Goal (Administration)
Slash "unnecessary" rules and costs. • Centralize oversight through OMB. • Speed economic growth via deregulation.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Agencies serving MT (USDA, BLM, EPA Region 8, HHS) face repeal quotas and cost ceilings before issuing *any* new protections.
Rural-health, school-safety, and land-stewardship rules are harder to update; guidance and memos can be counted as "rules" for repeal.
Effective-Date & Notes
Policy effective on publication; FY2025 cap applies immediately. • **Ten-for-one rule** and regulatory caps administered by OMB; **A-4 (2003)** reinstated; 2018 Treasury–OMB MOA revived.

Impact On Montana
Small business & households: Montana has the highest U.S. share of workers at small businesses (66.3%); compliance whiplash and weaker consumer/worker protections typically hit small firms first. Office of Advocacy
Energy, agriculture, natural resources: Faster rollback of land, water, and pesticide safeguards raises operating-risk for farms/ranches while shifting liability costs locally.
Rural health & schools: Fewer guardrails in clinic safety, telehealth, and school environments; harder to issue new protections without offset repeals.
Tribal nations: Risk of under-analyzed effects where federal trust and consultation duties overlap with "cost cap" vetoes.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This doesn't just cut "red tape"—it hard-codes a repeal quota and restricts how agencies count benefits, making it tougher to update rules that protect rural communities, tribal lands, and small firms. In a state dominated by small employers, those externalized risks usually land on Montanans first.

Agencies Affected (MT touchpoints)
OMB, all cabinet agencies; Montana interfaces: USDA/NRCS, BLM, EPA R8, HHS, MT OPI.

Legal/Policy Anchors
Budget & Accounting Act; EO 12866 cross-references; OMB Circular A-4 (2003).

Sources
Federal Register EO 14192 (90 FR 9065); SBA MT Profile (2025). Federal Register+1

EO 14193 - Imposing Duties To Address the Flow of Illicit Drugs Across Our Northern Border

Overview
Imposes extra 25% ad valorem duties on most goods from Canada and 10% on Canadian energy products. Suspends de minimis treatment and duty drawback for Canadian goods; requires privileged-foreign-status for FTZ admissions.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Treats tariffs as a security lever; prioritizes border-control optics over regional trade integration.

Stated Goal (Administration)
Use tariffs to deter fentanyl/meth flows over the northern border and pressure Canada to cooperate.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Price spikes & delays at Sweetgrass, Roosville, Piegan and other crossings on MT's 545-mile border; energy carve-out still adds 10% on fuels. De minimis suspended: every small parcel from Canada now faces duties and paperwork.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & logistics: Higher landed costs for parts, fencing wire, seed treatments; longer inspection queues.
Energy: 10% tariff on Canadian oil/gas raises regional input costs; pipelines serving Billings refineries magnify pass-through risk. AP News
Small business & households: Loss of de minimis increases costs for rural online orders and cross-border micro-shipments.

Why It Matters
The EO uses tariffs to fight drugs—but the **measurable effect is slower, costlier legal trade** that hits MT's border communities, farms, and retailers first, with scant evidence the northern border is the primary synthetic-opioid route.

Agencies
DHS/CBP, Treasury, USTR; MT ports: Sweetgrass, Roosville, Piegan.

Legal/Policy Anchors
IEEPA/NEA tariff action; HTSUS modifications via DHS notice.

Sources
Federal Register EO 14193 (90 FR 9127); AP regional coverage; border-length references. Federal Register+2AP News+2

EO 14194 - Imposing Duties To Address the Situation at Our Southern Border

Overview
Imposes 25% additional duties on most imports from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, and Belize, with a 10% rate for energy products; suspends de minimis and duty drawback; requires FTZ privileged-foreign-status.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Extends tariff-as-border-policy to Central America/Mexico; doubles as migration pressure tactic.

Montana Translation
Higher prices and longer lead times for vehicles/parts, tools, and food inputs sourced via national distributors. Small MT importers lose de minimis relief; compliance pushes them toward larger intermediaries.

Why It Matters (MT)
Even far from the southern border, Montana pays at the register: trucks and farm equipment cost more; grocery shelves and repair shops feel it first—while the policy's migration effect remains speculative.

Sources
Federal Register EO 14194 (90 FR 9139). Federal Register

EO 14195 - Imposing Duties To Address the Synthetic Opioid Supply Chain in the PRC

Overview
Adds a 10% across-the-board duty on all PRC-origin products, effective 12:01 a.m. ET Feb 4, 2025, with an in-transit exemption for goods loaded before Feb 1. FTZ admissions must be privileged-foreign; excludes humanitarian items under 50 U.S.C. 1702(b). Allows rate escalation if PRC retaliates.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Uses IEEPA tariffs as a broad coercive tool on PRC supply chains.

Montana Translation
Farm & ranch inputs: machinery parts, bearings, pumps, electronics, fertilizer components often PRC-sourced → higher costs and downtime risk during planting/harvest.
Retail & outdoor industry: pass-through price hikes on apparel/gear for Whitefish, Bozeman, Missoula shops.
Small business exposure: MT's small-firm majority has limited ability to hedge inventory costs. Office of Advocacy

Why It Matters
The fentanyl rationale yields statewide cost inflation on goods PRC-tied supply chains touch—i.e., most retail and many ag parts—without targeted relief for rural buyers or small importers.

Effective-Date & Agencies
As above; DHS/CBP to publish HTS changes; drawback unavailable; FTZ rule applies.

Sources
Federal Register EO 14195 (90 FR 9121); SBA MT Profile. Federal Register+1

EO 14196 - A Plan for Establishing a United States Sovereign Wealth Fund

Overview
Directs Treasury and Commerce to deliver, within 90 days, a plan for a U.S. sovereign wealth fund—including funding mechanisms, governance, investment strategy, and any needed legislation. Signals interest in channeling national revenues (potentially tariffs, mineral royalties, spectrum, asset sales) into a central vehicle.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implied. Centralizes federal financial power and contemplates a state-managed investment vehicle aligned with nationalist industrial policy.

Montana Translation
- If tariff/royalty revenues fund the SWF, rural communities may face front-loaded costs (higher prices) while investment benefits are long-term/uncertain.
- State pensions and university endowments could be crowded out or nudged toward federal-priority assets.

Why It Matters (MT)
A federal SWF could reshape capital flows without clear local guardrails—raising questions for tribal resource revenues, rural lending, and whether returns would ever recycle into Montana infrastructure or clinics versus national prestige projects.

Agencies
Treasury, Commerce (lead). Legal Plan development only; acknowledges potential need for new legislation.

Sources
Federal Register EO 14196 (90 FR 9181). Federal Register

EO 14197 - Progress on the Situation at Our Northern Border

Overview
Updates the Feb. 1 order that imposed extra tariffs on Canadian goods by pausing the added 25% (and 10% on energy) duties to March 4, 2025 at 12:01 a.m. ET, citing "immediate steps" by Canada—but withdraws the earlier "in-transit" exceptions, tightening compliance. For Montana, this toggling means whiplash for importers and border communities (Sweetgrass, Roosville, Piegan): businesses have to plan for tariffs to snap on if the pause lifts, and CBP processing rules change mid-stream.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Uses emergency trade powers as a law-and-order tool, consistent with tariff-as-enforcement themes in Heritage's "security + border" playbook.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Recognize partner cooperation while maintaining leverage to curb illicit drugs/illegal migration.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Tariff clock reset, not removed: Importers get a short reprieve but must price-in March 4 risk.
No more "already on the truck" carveouts: Pulling the in-transit exception raises brokerage/warehouse costs for MT firms relying on just-in-time deliveries.

Impact On Montana
Border Communities & Trade Logistics - More document checks and schedule slips at MT–Canada ports; trucking and small retailers absorb delay fees and re-quotes.
Agriculture & Inputs - If tariffs activate, expect price bumps on machinery parts, steel items, and fuel-related components routed through Canadian suppliers.
Tribal Nations - Cross-border trips and small-commerce patterns for Blackfeet families near Piegan face more scrutiny and variability.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This isn't a clean "on/off." It's a pause with a deadline and tighter rules today. For small MT importers, uncertainty **is** a cost—fewer bulk buys, thinner margins, and contingency pricing that rural customers ultimately pay.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)
DHS/CBP (port operations), Treasury (collection), USTR (partner talks), MT Dept. of Commerce (export/import assistance).

Legal / Policy Anchors
IEEPA; National Emergencies Act; Trade Act §604; 3 U.S.C. §301. Federal Register

Sources & References
Federal Register text and dates as cited above. Federal Register

EO 14198 - Progress on the Situation at Our Southern Border

Overview
Parallels EO 14197 for Mexico: **pauses** the added 25% duties to **March 4, 2025 at 12:01 a.m. ET**, credits Mexico with "immediate steps," and likewise **withdraws the in-transit exception.** Even without a shared border, Montana feels it via national supply chains (produce, parts, finished goods) and the same pricing uncertainty that ripples into rural stores.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Mirrors the northern-border tool: tariffs as immigration/drug enforcement leverage.

Stated Goal
Maintain pressure while evaluating partner actions; activate tariffs if conditions worsen.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Freight variability:** Longer lead-times and hedging by wholesalers servicing MT.
- **Cost pass-through:** Rural retailers cushion fewer shocks; expect "temporary surcharges" on inventory.

Impact On Montana
Small Businesses & Households - Price volatility in groceries, hardware, and auto parts sourced nationally.
Agriculture - Consumables (fertilizer additives, packaging) tied to North-American supply webs face step-ups if tariffs trigger.
Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors - Regressive effects of price swings hit fixed incomes hardest.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Montana doesn't need a land crossing with Mexico to feel tariff tremors, national distributor pricing becomes the tax.

Agencies / Legal / Dates
Same authorities as EO 14197

Sources & References
Federal Register text and dates as cited above. Federal Register

EO 14199 - Withdrawing the United States From and Ending Funding to Certain United Nations Organizations and Reviewing U.S. Support to All International Organizations

Overview Immediately halts U.S. participation in the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), orders a 90-day review of UNESCO membership, and prohibits funding for UNRWA per appropriations riders. Also orders a 180-day government-wide review of all IGOs, conventions, and treaties to identify additional withdrawals/reforms. For Montana, that means grant uncertainty for universities/NGOs tied to UNESCO/UN platforms and potential pauses in programs (heritage, cultural exchange, scientific cooperation).

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Tracks Heritage's call to defund or exit international bodies viewed as contrary to U.S. interests and to centralize foreign-policy direction.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
• **Funding chill:** MSU/UM and MT nonprofits using UN-linked networks face partner hesitancy.
• **Program drift:** Cultural/heritage collaborations (museum ties, UNESCO-adjacent projects) may stall pending the 90-day review.

Impact On Montana
Universities & NGOs - Fewer multilateral channels for grants/exchanges; compliance overhead grows.
Tribal Nations - Reduced visibility in UNESCO/UN forums around Indigenous languages/heritage can slow projects benefiting Blackfeet, Crow, Salish-Kootenai partners.
Rural Health & Clinics - Loss of UN-affiliated technical exchange can indirectly narrow public-health knowledge flows.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana). Montana's global ties are small but **outsized in impact**—a single exchange or pilot can anchor a lab or a museum program. When Washington steps back from the UN, rural institutions lose **reach and credibility** they can't easily replace. This EO directly fulfills Project 2025's goal of retreating from international collaboration in favor of a nationalist, transactional foreign policy. It dismantles longstanding global partnerships and centralizes foreign policy power in the executive, free from multilateral checks or norms.

Agencies Affected: Department of State, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of the Treasury

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14199
• Additional Sources: Council on Foreign Relations, Foreign Policy, UN Foundation
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-cuts-ties-un-agencies
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/report/exit-the-un-the-case-for-american-withdrawal
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14199
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/un-withdrawal-and-eo-14199

Notes & Legal Conflicts. Foreign policy experts and international legal scholars argue that the EO weakens U.S. security alliances and soft power. Humanitarian organizations warn that millions of vulnerable populations will suffer from interrupted aid. • Constitutionality: Permissible under executive foreign affairs authority, but likely to face congressional pushback. Congressional Approval: Not required for withdrawal, but needed to permanently rescind appropriated funding.

EO 14200 - Amendment to Duties Addressing the Synthetic Opioid Supply Chain in the People's Republic of China

Overview
Amends the Feb 1 China-opioid tariff order's de minimis clause: such packages remain duty-free only until Commerce confirms systems are ready to "fully and expediently" collect tariffs on them—after which de minimis ceases for covered articles. This links future small-parcel duties to administrative readiness, a precursor to the broader nationwide de minimis suspension later in EO 14324. For Montana, expect more fees/paperwork on small imported parts and some pharmacy items as rules harden.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Tightens trade levers tied to fentanyl precursors and cross-references later de minimis actions (e.g., EO 14324).

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Parts & supplies: Farm/ranch repairs and small shop inventory that often arrive as low-value parcels become slower/costlier as systems flip.
Pharmacy logistics: Any foreign-sourced components routed via small parcels face added handling.

Impact On Montana
Agriculture & Natural Resources - Small shipments of bearings, seals, and electronics grow pricier; downtime costs rise.
Small Business & Households - Rural e-commerce and repair ecosystems pay new brokerage/tariff charges.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
When de minimis closes, rural Montana loses its cheapest lane for hard-to-find parts—turning a $50 fix into a $50 fix plus fees, delays, and uncertainty.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Homeland Security
• Department of the Treasury
• Department of Commerce
• Customs and Border Protection

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14200
• Additional Sources: DEA, Peterson Institute for International Economics, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-expands-china-opioid-sanctions
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/asia/commentary/building-pressure-stop-chinese-opioid-exports
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14200
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/opioid-trade-restrictions-update

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Likely legal under emergency trade powers, though faces WTO scrutiny and administrative fairness questions. Congressional Approval: Not required for implementation International trade bodies and diplomatic allies have expressed concern over the EO's lack of due process in trade enforcement. Legal experts warn it may encourage retaliation and hinder global narcotics coordination.

EO 14201 - Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports

Overview
This executive order prohibits transgender women and girls from participating in female-designated athletic competitions in any institution receiving federal funding. It directs the Department of Education to revise Title IX enforcement policies and mandates that athletic eligibility be based solely on biological sex assigned at birth. The EO applies to K–12 schools, colleges, and universities, and authorizes civil penalties and funding cuts for noncompliant programs.
For Montana, this places K-12 districts, the Montana University System, and tribal colleges in a funding-compliance bind amid conflicting state/local policies and accommodation needs.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Implements "anti-DEI/anti-trans" policy across education and sports; reinterprets Title IX along biological-sex lines.

Impact on Democracy Federal dictates override local and state education governance and erase individual rights of participation. The state, not citizens, now decides identity and belonging—telling everyone what reality they must affirm.

This EO enforces one of Project 2025's most symbolic cultural priorities: reasserting binary sex categories in federal law. It serves as both a legal and rhetorical tool to exclude transgender people from public life and signals the rollback of civil rights expansion over the past two decades.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

Funding risk: Districts and campuses face potential federal-funding exposure if policies diverge.
Admin load: Eligibility audits, appeals, and legal defense costs rise—hardest on rural/tribal schools with minimal staff.
Student health & climate: Confusion over participation rules spills into school climate, counseling demand, and mental-health load.

Impact On Montana

Education & School Systems - Policy rewrites; compliance training; possible OCR/DOJ investigations.
Tribal Nations - Tribal schools (and athletes who travel across districts) navigate overlapping, often conflicting rules; higher stigma risk for Native LGBTQ2S+ youth.
Rural Health & Clinics - Counseling and mental-health referrals increase as schools manage fallout; rural providers already stretched.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO enforces one of Project 2025's most symbolic cultural priorities: reasserting binary sex categories in federal law. It serves as both a legal and rhetorical tool to exclude transgender people from public life and signals the rollback of civil rights expansion over the past two decades. Whatever one's view on athletics, **tying school funding to a contested eligibility rule** forces Montana administrators to choose between legal risk and student inclusion—with rural and tribal schools least able to absorb the cost.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Education
• Department of Justice
• Office for Civil Rights

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14201
• Additional Sources: American Civil Liberties Union, Human Rights Campaign, Women's Sports Foundation
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-bans-trans-athletes-womens-sports
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/gender/commentary/fairness-womens-sports-and-the-need-title-ix-reform
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14201
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/title-ix-transgender-athlete-policy-update

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Under challenge in multiple federal courts on grounds of Equal Protection and civil rights violations. Congressional Approval: Not required for administrative reinterpretation of civil rights enforcement policy. Legal advocacy groups have filed suits challenging the EO's compliance with Title IX and constitutional protections. Educational institutions face conflicting requirements from state and federal law, while trans student-athletes report increased harassment and exclusion.

EO 14202 - Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias

Overview
This executive order instructs all federal agencies to identify and eliminate policies or practices perceived to disadvantage individuals or organizations on the basis of Christian belief. It creates a new Office of Religious Liberty within the Department of Justice and requires all civil rights enforcement bodies to apply a 'faith neutrality audit' when evaluating claims. The EO also directs the Department of Education to safeguard the rights of students and educators to express religious beliefs in schools. The scope is broad ("bias in education, government, media, and commerce"), which invites uneven enforcement and culture-war investigations that can spill into Montana schools, colleges, libraries, and nonprofits.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Advances the Christian-nationalist dimension of the blueprint by reframing religious privilege as equality restoration. Mirrors "religious liberty first" and anti-DEI planks (Education & HHS chapters) that steer federal civil-rights machinery toward policing perceived bias against Christians while rolling back equity programs.

Stated Goal (Administration)
Protect religious liberty; identify and combat "anti-Christian bias"; produce rapid recommendations.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
K-12 & universities (OPI, MSU, UM): Investigations/complaints may target curricula, student policies, library materials, or campus speech codes.
Local governments & libraries: Records requests and compliance work (training, policy rewrites) without new funding.
Nonprofits: Grant conditions may shift toward "viewpoint neutrality" tests favoring religious providers.

Impact On Montana
Education & School Systems
Districts absorb new complaint processing, policy audits, and staff time; rural districts have the fewest lawyers/admins to handle this.
Rural Health & Clinics
Faith-based providers could win new preference in grants; risk of service gaps if secular providers exit contested programs.
Tribal Nations
Potential friction where public-school or clinic policies intersect with tribal sovereignty and two-spirit/LGBTQ+ youth protections.
Veterans, Students, Low-Income & Seniors
Students and low-income families feel the effect when counseling, library access, or health services are chilled by investigations.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO reorients federal attention toward policing perceived "anti-Christian bias" and sets tight reporting clocks that incentivize visible enforcement. In a rural state with thin administrative capacity, even a few complaints can soak scarce staff hours—diverting resources from teaching, counseling, and clinics

Why It Matters:
This EO aligns with Project 2025's framing of Christian conservatism as an identity under threat. It weaponizes federal civil rights law to favor specific religious values and reframes church-state separation as persecution. It

paves the way for rolling back LGBTQ protections, reproductive rights, and scientific curricula based on claims of religious conscience.

Agencies Affected (MT touchpoints)
DOJ (Task Force), ED/Office for Civil Rights, HHS, OPI, MSU/UM, city/county governments.

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14202
• Additional Sources: Americans United for Separation of Church and State, ACLU, Pew Research Center
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-signs-order-end-anti-christian-bias
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/religious-liberty/report/restoring-faith-freedom-federal-policy
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14202
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/faith-neutrality-order-under-review

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Being litigated—critics cite Establishment Clause violations and unequal application of civil rights law. Congressional Approval: Not required; implemented through agency rulemaking and internal audits. Civil rights watchdogs are monitoring the order's effects on enforcement of anti-discrimination protections, especially in healthcare, education, and employment. Several lawsuits argue that the EO prioritizes one religious tradition in violation of the Establishment Clause.

EO 14203 - Imposing Sanctions on the International Criminal Court

Overview
This executive order imposes sanctions on senior officials of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in response to investigations or prosecutions involving U.S. military personnel or allies. It authorizes asset freezes, travel bans, and restrictions on financial transactions. The EO declares that any attempt by the ICC to assert jurisdiction over U.S. nationals or treaty non-signatories constitutes a threat to U.S. sovereignty.

Impact Summary:
The EO undermines international accountability mechanisms and may shield U.S. military or intelligence personnel from investigation in cases involving alleged war crimes or crimes against humanity. It deepens the rift between the U.S. and international law institutions and may provoke retaliatory diplomatic or legal actions by other countries. Blocks visas and freezes assets of ICC officials investigating U.S. or allied personnel. Undermines global human-rights enforcement mechanisms.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Tracks Project 2025's sovereignty-first posture: resist multilateral legal bodies viewed as hostile, and weaponize sanctions tools accordingly. Echoes Heritage's rejection of supranational accountability, defending absolute U.S. sovereignty over international law.

Impact on Democracy By shielding power from external scrutiny, it signals that law is subordinate to might. Citizens learn that justice applies outward, not inward—a hallmark of authoritarian governance.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Universities/NGOs:** Visa issues and funding chills for partnerships touching international justice; export controls/SDN screening burdens.
- **Banks & credit unions:** Expanded OFAC screening; small compliance teams in MT must update filters and handle false positives.
- **Law/government programs:** Fewer ICC-linked exchanges; faculty and students in law/international studies face constraints.

Impact On Montana

Education & Research
MSU/UM programs in law/human rights see partnership risk; study-abroad/legal clinics may need new screening.

Small Financials
Community banks/credit unions incur regulatory overhead for SDN checks and potential blocking reports.

Veterans & Families
Symbolic alignment with protecting U.S. service members resonates; practical effect is compliance workload, not direct benefits.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This is not an abstract foreign-policy move: it adds day-to-day compliance tasks for small Montana institutions—universities, nonprofits, and especially community banks—without adding staff or funds. One designation can freeze a payment and derail a grant cycle. Federal Register+1

Why It Matters:
This EO reflects Project 2025's view that U.S. exceptionalism overrides global legal norms. It positions the U.S. outside the framework of international justice and discourages scrutiny of military conduct, further consolidating executive power over matters of war and human rights.
Agencies Affected (MT touchpoints)
Treasury/OFAC; State (visas); DHS (admissibility); MSU/UM; regional banks/credit unions.

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14203
• Additional Sources: Human Rights Watch, American Society of International Law, The Hague
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-sanctions-icc-officials-over-us-investigations
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/commentary/why-the-us-must-oppose-the-icc
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14203
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/sanctions-on-icc-and-us-policy

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Likely legal but controversial; may conflict with treaties and international norms.
Congressional Approval: Not required for sanctions, but funding adjustments may trigger oversight.
International legal experts have condemned the EO as undermining the rule of law. Allies participating in joint military operations have expressed concern that this move increases global impunity for abuses.

EO 14204 - Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa

Overview. Directs agencies to **halt U.S. aid/assistance to South Africa** "to the maximum extent allowed by law," and instructs State/DHS to **prioritize resettlement of Afrikaner refugees**; cites South Africa's land-expropriation law and positions on Israel/Iran as rationale. Provides agency discretion carve-outs but sets a restrictive default.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Reflects Project 2025 calls to **cut foreign aid to adversarial governments** and to align refugee policy with ideological priorities. Heritage specifically urged ending U.S. assistance to South Africa.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **NGOs & campuses:** MT-based partners working in South/Southern Africa may lose subawards or need waivers.
- **Refugee systems:** Re-prioritization skews admissions pipelines; local resettlement groups may see intake mix/volume changes.
- **Trade:** Limited direct MT-SA trade, but policy signals can ripple in grantmaking and exchange programs.

Impact On Montana
- **Refugee Education & Research**
  Africa-focused programs face grant uncertainty and partner risk reviews.
- **Refugee Services (Billings/Missoula)**
  Admissions mix may shift abruptly; planning becomes harder for housing, employment, and healthcare coordination.
- **Tribal Nations**
  Indirect—through shared NGO partners and potential cuts to global-Indigenous exchange programs.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana). When Washington flips foreign-aid switches, rural nonprofits and university programs feel the jolt first. This EO's "halt unless exempted" posture creates planning whiplash for small MT teams that run on thin grant cycles and partnerships.

Agencies Affected (MT touchpoints)
USAID, State, DHS (refugee), MT campus grants offices, local resettlement partners. Federal Register

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14204
• Additional Sources: African Union, Human Rights Watch, Council on Foreign Relations
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-punishes-south-africa-hostile-actions
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/commentary/why-we-must-check-south-africas-aggression
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14204
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/us-south-africa-sanctions-explained

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Permissible under executive foreign policy powers, though may violate multilateral development compacts. Congressional Approval: Not required for executive sanctions, though aid reallocation may require legislative consultation. Foreign policy analysts warn the EO sets a precedent for undermining

international legal cooperation. Legal advocates argue that the sanctions interfere with judicial independence and weaken the global rule of law.

EO 14205 - Establishment of the White House Faith Office

Overview
Creates the White House Faith Office inside the Domestic Policy Council; renames prior "Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives" across agencies and orders every agency that lacks one to appoint a "Faith Liaison" within 90 days. Amends/updates earlier faith-based EOs (2001–2010). Functions include training grantees, spotlighting faith initiatives, and advising on "religious liberty exceptions."

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Implements the playbook's call to expand faith-based partnership pipelines, reduce "barriers" to religious participation in federally funded programs, and preference outcome-driven, non-government providers. This EO advances Project 2025's goal of embedding Christian conservative values in public governance. It turns federal programs into vehicles for religious expansion and reframes social services as a religious duty rather than a government responsibility.

Impact on Democracy Blurring church-state boundaries embeds ideology at the core of governance. When divine authority is invoked to validate executive orders, the people's authority is diminished—they are no longer governing but being governed "on their behalf." This EO advances Project 2025's goal of embedding Christian conservative values in public governance. It turns federal programs into vehicles for religious expansion and reframes social services as a religious duty rather than a government responsibility.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Grant competition:** Faith-based providers in MT may gain access/priority cues; secular/medical providers may face new compliance frictions.
- **Administrative lift:** State agencies, counties, schools, and nonprofits will see new trainings, notices, and liaison interactions—without added admin funding.
- **Program rules:** Greater reliance on "religious liberty exceptions" increases case-by-case variance in service delivery. Administration 'pet' religious views will be priority for public funds.

Impact On Montana

Rural Health & Human Services. Faith-based entrants expand in shelter, recovery, reentry, and family services; concerns about nondiscrimination/continuity of care surface for LGBTQ+ clients and survivors seeking secular options.

Education & Youth. After-school and tutoring grants may tilt toward faith-affiliated providers; rural districts must navigate parent complaints and neutrality rules.

Tribal Nations. Heightened church-state sensitivities where services operate on or near tribal lands; sovereignty considerations in grant conditions.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO reshapes who gets federal dollars to serve Montana families. If safeguards aren't clear, clients could face "choice deserts" in small towns—where the only grantee left is a provider whose policies exclude them. Meanwhile, administrators must stand up new liaison processes in under-staffed offices.

Agencies Affected (MT touchpoints)
HHS, USDA, DHS, DOE/ED, VA (faith outreach), plus required Faith Liaisons within 90 days across agencies.

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14205
• Additional Sources: Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Pew Research Center, ACLU

• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-relaunches-faith-office-restore-values
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/religious-liberty/report/the-case-faith-based-partnerships-federal-policy
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14205
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/white-house-faith-office-returns

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Likely to face Establishment Clause challenges if religious instruction is publicly subsidized.
Congressional Approval: Not required for advisory office establishment, though oversight may follow.
Civil rights groups are preparing lawsuits over preferential access to public funds for religious institutions.
Oversight bodies are investigating how religious content may be integrated into federally funded programming.

EO 14206 - Protecting Second Amendment Rights

Overview. Directs the Attorney General (AG) to deliver, within 30 days, a government-wide plan to identify and unwind actions since Jan 2021 that "impinged" on Second Amendment rights - including ATF rules, litigation positions, and the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention outputs. Practically, this sets up rescissions of firearm-related rules, guidance, and enforcement postures.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Calls to roll back firearm regulations and to recast public-health framing of gun violence track Heritage/Project 2025's prescriptions on "restoring constitutional rights" and curbing agency rulemaking. **Implements Heritage's plank calling for maximal gun deregulation, preemption of state limits, and dismantling of ATF oversight.**

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Rule reversals:** ATF/DOJ reviews of definitions, licensing, and enforcement priorities could unwind 2021–2025 rules that MT law enforcement and retailers have adapted to.
- **Public-health retreat:** Federal partners may step back from violence-prevention grants framed as "public health," narrowing rural clinic collaboration space. Politico

Impact On Montana

Rural Health & Clinics - Fewer federal prevention partnerships; mixed signals for hospital systems counseling on firearm injury prevention. Politico

Tribal Nations - Tribal public-health departments may lose leverage to pursue injury-prevention grants if federal framing shifts. (Policy inference.)

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors - Counseling and safe-storage outreach could scale back in VA-adjacent or school settings supported by prior grants. (Policy inference.)

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana). This EO fulfills a major Project 2025 objective of dismantling regulatory enforcement of gun laws. It promotes a maximalist interpretation of the Second Amendment and signals a shift from public safety toward a constitutional absolutism that elevates gun ownership above competing civil or communal rights. In rural Montana, where clinical capacity and grant-funded prevention are already thin, losing those touchpoints widens gaps without solving underlying safety concerns.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance). DOJ/ATF; HHS (public-health posture); MT DOJ & local LE partners (coordination).

Media & Reference Sources:

• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14206
• Additional Sources: Brady United, Giffords Law Center, NRA Institute for Legislative Action
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-order-restores-gun-rights-patriots
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/firearms/report/why-the-second-amendment-is-non-negotiable
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14206
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/federal-gun-order-analysis

Notes & Legal Conflicts:

Constitutionality: Contested—critics argue it conflicts with judicial precedent supporting targeted gun restrictions. Congressional Approval: Not required for federal enforcement guidance reversal.

Litigation is expected from gun control advocates and several states that partner with federal agencies on red flag enforcement. Constitutional scholars are divided on whether the EO oversteps separation-of-powers principles by overriding state sovereignty in public safety administration.

EO 14207 - Eliminating the Federal Executive Institute

Overview. This executive order abolishes the Federal Executive Institute (FEI), which has provided leadership training to senior federal executives since 1968. It declares the institute redundant and ideologically compromised and transfers all remaining leadership development responsibilities to a new Office of Executive Talent within the Office of Personnel Management. The EO instructs agencies to suspend all contracts with third-party leadership trainers previously certified by the FEI.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Project 2025 favors shrinking the career bureaucracy and re-orienting training toward political **priorities.** *Ending FEI aligns with de-professionalizing the career leadership pipeline and consolidating executive control.* (Alignment inference from EO purpose language.)

Impact on Democracy Destroying training pathways hollows out institutional competence, ensuring loyalty replaces skill. Public servants become functionaries repeating directives rather than stewards of the people's trust. This EO enacts a key Project 2025 strategy of restructuring the civil service to ensure loyalty to the executive branch. It dismantles a pillar of merit-based governance and consolidates control over who is elevated into senior roles, especially in regulatory or scientific agencies.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Capacity loss:** MT-based federal field offices (USFS, BLM, VA, USDA) lose a core pathway for leadership development and succession planning. (Inference from FEI's historical role.)
- **Recruitment headwinds:** Harder to retain/advance talent in rural posts without equivalent training investments.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources - Fewer trained managers in USFS/BLM can slow project decisions on grazing, timber, fuels.

Rural Health & Clinics - VA/USDA-rural programs lose a professional development channel.

Tribal Nations - Tribal-federal program leads may see slower decision cycles if vacancies rise or managers rotate without training.

Why It Matters. For a rural state dependent on well-run federal field offices, eliminating FEI removes scaffolding for competent management just as retirements accelerate. That tends to mean slower permitting, slower service, and more churn in leadership posts serving Montana.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance). OPM; field components of USFS/BLM/USDA/VA; MT federal facilities.

Media & Reference Sources:

• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14207
• Additional Sources: Partnership for Public Service, National Academy of Public Administration
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-ends-bloated-government-training-agency
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/government-reform/commentary/why-the-federal-executive-institute-must-go
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14207
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/federal-executive-institute-abolition-explained

Notes & Legal Conflicts:

Constitutionality. Unlikely to face legal challenge unless linked to discriminatory hiring practices.
Congressional Approval: Not required for termination of internal training programs. Current and former public

service leaders have raised alarms over the loss of a bipartisan, ethics-centered development pipeline. Concerns remain that the new office will screen candidates based on ideology rather than competence or experience.

EO 14208 - Ending Procurement and Forced Use of Paper Straws

Overview
Bars federal policies that ban or penalize purchase/use of plastic straws; directs a national strategy to end "forced use of paper straws" in procurement and related policies. This executive order bans the use of federal funds to procure paper straws and other biodegradable beverage accessories for use in federal facilities, parks, and cafeterias. It declares that paper straws are 'ineffective, unpopular, and unscientific,' and prohibits any federal agency from mandating their use over plastic alternatives. The EO directs the General Services Administration to revise all purchasing guidelines and encourages private contractors to provide 'traditional straw options' in federal venues.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Culture-war signaling and deregulatory procurement posture; framed as cost/efficiency but primarily symbolic. A symbolic culture-war plank portraying environmental rules as government overreach.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Minimal direct MT impact: Federal sites in MT can stock plastic straws; state/local rules unaffected.
Attention drag: Procurement staff time spent on a narrow mandate rather than higher-value rural needs.

Impact On Montana
Low material effect statewide; symbolic emphasis may crowd out more pressing rural procurement upgrades (e.g., clinic equipment, firefighting supplies).

Why It Matters
It's policy oxygen on a niche issue. Even if costs change trivially at a few facilities, the opportunity cost is focus—not dollars.

Agencies Affected
OMB/OFPP; GSA/FAR Council; federal facilities in MT. Federal Register

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14208
• Additional Sources: Environmental Defense Fund, GAO procurement audits, Center for Environmental Health
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-ends-paper-straw-mandate
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/environment/commentary/why-paper-straws-are-a-failed-environmental-symbol
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14208
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/paper-straw-ban-federal-facilities

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Unlikely to be challenged—executive discretion in procurement is well established.
Congressional Approval: Not required for procurement guideline changes.
Environmental advocates warn the EO sets a precedent for rescinding low-cost, high-impact sustainability measures. No major legal challenges are expected, but agencies may face internal pushback from sustainability officers and green procurement programs.

EO 14209 - Pausing Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) Enforcement To Further American Economic and National Security

Overview:
This executive order directs the Department of Justice and Securities and Exchange Commission to suspend enforcement of certain provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) for U.S. companies operating in strategic sectors, citing national economic security. The EO applies a blanket waiver for anti-bribery provisions in transactions deemed essential to energy independence, rare earth acquisition, and international infrastructure projects aligned with U.S. interests.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Tracks Project 2025's call to reduce "compliance drag" on U.S. firms abroad and channel enforcement only to threats tied to national security. In other words, reflects Heritage's business-first ethos: weaken anti-bribery laws to remove "competitive burdens."

Impact Summary:
The EO undermines longstanding anti-corruption standards and gives corporations broad leeway to engage in foreign bribery, provided the activity aligns with U.S. strategic goals. It signals to international partners that the U.S. is retreating from global transparency norms, and may expose American firms to legal risk abroad. Watchdog organizations warn that it fosters pay-to-play practices and weakens democratic institutions in recipient nations. Orders DOJ and SEC to suspend key enforcement actions. U.S. companies gain short-term leverage abroad while corruption risk spikes. This EO reflects Project 2025's willingness to dismantle ethical safeguards in pursuit of economic dominance. It legitimizes corruption as a tool of statecraft and removes key accountability levers from the U.S. foreign policy and business portfolio.

Impact on Democracy Erodes integrity in both markets and government. Citizens are told that ethical shortcuts strengthen the nation—when in truth, they corrode it from within.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

Risk import: MT exporters/contractors operating via foreign agents face greater counterpart risk—fewer DOJ guardrails can mean dirtier deal environments.

Banking/compliance: MT community banks supporting exporters still must screen; SEC exposure remains; policy uncertainty raises advisory costs. Reuters

Impact On Montana

Small Business & Trade - Higher reputational and counterparty risk for ag-equipment, mining-services, or timber-tech firms seeking overseas sales.

Tribal & Rural Development NGOs - Integrity screens with foreign ministries/municipalities become harder without predictable DOJ posture.

Veterans/Students/Low-Income - Indirect; but any sanctions blowback or contract failures hit local payrolls first.

Why It Matters
Montana firms don't keep in-house compliance teams; they rely on predictable federal rules to keep markets fair. A pause signals permissiveness abroad while U.S. small exporters still shoulder screening costs—tilting the field toward bad actors and big incumbents. Reuters

Agencies Affected
DOJ (criminal FCPA); SEC (civil FCPA unaffected); Treasury/OFAC overlaps remain. Reuters

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14209
• Additional Sources: Transparency International, Center for Responsive Politics, Government Accountability Project
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-suspends-corruption-rules-boost-american-biz
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/economic-and-property-rights/report/fcpa-hurts-us-competitiveness
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14209
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/fcpa-pause-analysis

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Strongly contested; may exceed executive authority by suspending congressionally enacted law. Congressional Approval: Not obtained; executive reinterpretation of statutory enforcement is under legal review. Legal scholars and former DOJ officials warn the EO violates the separation of powers and undermines the U.S.'s credibility in anti-corruption diplomacy. Lawsuits are expected to challenge the administration's legal basis for selective nonenforcement of the FCPA.

EO 14210 - Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative

Overview. Launches a government-wide downsizing architecture: a 1-for-4 hiring ratio, DOGE Team Lead veto influence over hires, preparations for large-scale RIFs, OPM rulemaking to tighten suitability, and 30-day agency reports identifying components for elimination or consolidation. Tribal consultations began at Interior given impacts on Indian Affairs staffing. The American Presidency Project+2U.S. Office of Personnel Management+2

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Directly operationalizes Project 2025's workforce-reduction and Schedule-F-style goals: shrink the civil service, centralize control, and privilege enforcement over service functions. The order's definitions/exclusions (public safety, immigration, law enforcement) mirror those priorities. The American Presidency Project

Real-World Translation

- **Immediate staffing squeeze:** Field offices (USFS, BLM, VA clinics, USDA service centers, FWS refuges, Bureau of Indian Affairs) face attrition without backfill and plan for RIFs. The American Presidency Project+1
- **Program slowdowns:** Permitting, wildfire fuels work, grazing/timber decisions, vets' benefits claims, and conservation projects slow as vacancies mount. (Operational inference)
- **Tribal impacts:** Interior initiated tribal consultations acknowledging workforce effects on Indian Affairs operations in MT. Bureau of Indian Affairs

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources - Fewer rangeland specialists, hydrologists, and foresters = delayed grazing/timber decisions and fuels projects.

Rural Health & Clinics - VA and IHS recruiting hampered by ratio + RIF prep; longer appointment and claims times.

Tribal Nations - Staffing losses at BIA and IHS/tribal-liaison offices compound service gaps on Blackfeet, Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Flathead. Bureau of Indian Affairs

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors - Claims processing, Pell/loan servicing, SNAP and rural grants slow first in sparse-staff districts like MT.

Why It Matters

Montana's reliance on federal field capacity is outsized. A broad hiring choke plus RIF prep lands hardest where each vacancy already means a service gap. The order's carve-outs (law enforcement, immigration) don't cover the day-to-day functions Montanans use—land management, veterans' care, rural health, and grants administration. The American Presidency Project

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)

OPM (rulemaking); OMB (plans); Interior (USFS/BLM/BIA/FWS); USDA; VA; HHS/IHS; DOE/land labs. The American Presidency Project

Media & Reference Sources:

• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14210
• Additional Sources: Merit Systems Protection Board, Government Accountability Office, National Treasury Employees Union
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-axes-deep-state-jobs-efficiency-drive

• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/government-reform/report/rebuilding-the-executive-branch-project-2025
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14210
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/government-efficiency-order-explained

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Hotly contested—expected to be challenged under civil service statutes and First Amendment retaliation grounds. Congressional Approval: Not required for reclassification but vulnerable to appropriations or oversight interventions. Multiple lawsuits are expected from public employee unions and good governance groups. Experts warn of massive brain drain, operational dysfunction, and the collapse of independent scientific, legal, and regulatory review.

EO 14211 - One Voice for America's Foreign Relations

Overview
Centralizes day-to-day foreign policy under the President and instructs State to reform recruiting, performance, and training—and to revise/replace the Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM)—to ensure "faithful implementation" of presidential policy. Expected flashpoints: pressure on career diplomats, narrower space for dissent channels, and knock-on effects for federally funded exchanges and NGO work that touches foreign policy.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Mirrors calls to concentrate foreign-policy voice in the White House and impose tighter top-down control over State's career corps/public diplomacy. (Representative Heritage analyses advocate centralized strategic communications and unified messaging.)– all at the President's beck and call. Implements the unitary-executive model—tightening presidential control over diplomacy and sidelining career diplomats.

Impact Summary:
The EO centralizes foreign policy control within the executive office and effectively silences diplomatic professionals. It erodes the autonomy of agencies like the State Department, restricts scientific and humanitarian collaboration, and diminishes multilateral coordination. Critics warn that it suppresses dissent and politicizes foreign policy messaging. Centralizes foreign-policy communications in the White House; restricts embassy and State Department autonomy.

Impact on Democracy Concentrating external messaging eliminates plural perspectives and congressional checks. Citizens are told unity requires silence—dissent equals disloyalty.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Grant risk: University centers and NGOs with State-funded exchanges may see tighter messaging/compliance requirements.
Academic chill: While the EO governs federal employees, more centralized "one voice" expectations can spill over into grant conditions, complicating MSU/UM programs that involve foreign partners.
Local banking/export compliance: Stricter State/embassy coordination could slow approvals or meetings that MT exporters rely on.

Impact On Montana
Education & Research - MSU/UM programs tied to State (Fulbright/ECA) could face slower approvals and narrower scopes.
Tribal Nations - Tribal colleges with international cultural exchanges may encounter new vetting layers. **Small Businesses/Exporters** - Longer lead times for commercial diplomacy assistance.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
When Washington narrows the policymaking funnel, small states lose agility: fewer channels to solve export snags, more boxes to tick for exchange grants, and less room for neutral academic engagement.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of State
• Department of Defense
• National Security Council
• U.S. Agency for International Development

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14211
• Additional Sources: American Foreign Service Association, Brookings Institution, Government Accountability Project
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-unifies-us-voice-abroad-ends-rogue-diplomacy
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/foreign-policy/commentary/foreign-policy-one-voice-american-sovereignty
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14211
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/foreign-policy-speech-restrictions-explained

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Controversial—expected to face First Amendment and whistleblower protections challenges.
Congressional Approval: Not required, though oversight may emerge around diplomatic funding and public reporting.
Multiple career diplomats and international scientists have raised concerns about their ability to participate in global problem-solving without political gatekeeping. Legal scholars anticipate lawsuits challenging the EO's chilling effect on protected speech and international cooperation.

EO 14212 - Establishing the President's Make America Healthy Again Commission

Overview
Creates a White House-directed commission (HHS Chair; Domestic Policy Council Exec. Dir.) to focus agencies and research on **reversing chronic disease**, with heavy emphasis on childhood conditions and "restoring scientific integrity." Big shifts could reroute NIH/CDC priorities and how data are released. For Montana: watch rural health funding categories, telehealth pilots, and nutrition/fitness programs in schools.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Centralization, aggressive re-prioritization of public-health agendas, and skepticism of legacy guidance map to themes in conservative playbooks about reorienting HHS and "mandate-free" health policy. (See WH/HHS rollouts for context.)

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Combat chronic disease; elevate "gold-standard" root-cause research; increase transparency and reduce conflicts of interest.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Grant re-sorting:** Rural MT clinics and MSU/UM projects could see program definitions and metrics change mid-cycle.
- **School health load:** More national attention on youth health without new rural staff dollars strains school nurses and counselors.
- **Data & compliance:** New transparency/ethics requirements may add reporting work for small providers.

Impact On Montana
Rural Health & Clinics - Grant categories/metrics may shift; small staffs shoulder new compliance.
Education & Youth - Nutrition/fitness deliverables increase without funding guarantees.
Tribal Nations - IHS/tribal health partners face moving targets for "best practices" evidence.

Why It Matters
This EO supports Project 2025's goal of placing public health policy under executive and ideological control. It shifts authority away from independent institutions like the CDC and FDA and subjects health. Reprioritizing health from D.C. can improve focus—but in a rural state the **admin burden lands locally**. If funding doesn't follow the new mandates, clinics and schools juggle more reporting with the same staff.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Health and Human Services
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
• Food and Drug Administration
• Office of Management and Budget

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14212
• Additional Sources: American Public Health Association, Kaiser Family Foundation, The Lancet
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-health-commission-will-cut-waste
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/health-care-reform/report/reforming-public-health-through-free-market-solutions
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14212
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/make-america-healthy-again-commission-explained

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Unlikely to be challenged unless used to block statutory public health mandates.
Congressional Approval: Not required for commission formation but oversight likely through appropriations.
Public health officials and scientists warn the EO politicizes disease prevention and could jeopardize emergency readiness. Civil liberties groups are tracking whether the Commission's composition violates the Federal Advisory Committee Act's requirements for balance and transparency.

EO 14213 - Establishing the National Energy Dominance Council

Overview
Creates a cabinet-level **National Energy Dominance Council** (Interior as Chair; Energy as Vice-Chair) to drive "all-of-the-above" energy policy, including oil, gas, coal, uranium, hydro, biofuels, and critical minerals—explicitly to make the U.S. "energy dominant." Expect faster federal decisions on leasing, permitting, and export infrastructure. MT sees both upside (activity) and risk (local oversight, price swings).

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. "Energy dominance," deregulation, and presidential coordination are core themes in conservative platforms; WH's own materials tie this Council to unleashing production.

Impact Summary:
The EO reverses decades of environmental and climate planning by institutionalizing fossil fuel dominance as a government priority. It marginalizes renewable energy initiatives, overrides agency-level climate mitigation plans, and accelerates extraction activities with reduced environmental oversight. The NEDC is structured to bypass traditional regulatory review and public input processes. Creates an interagency council reporting directly to the President to override environmental or safety objections to production.

Impact on Democracy Bypassing statutory review turns shared resources into executive property. Citizens are told their consent is delay, their oversight obstruction.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Permitting tempo:** Faster federal calls on leasing/rights-of-way can accelerate MT oil, gas, uranium, and transmission proposals.
- **Local trade-offs:** Compressed reviews strain county governments and landowners; appeals windows may narrow.
- **Hydro & critical minerals:** Headwaters/transmission and mining proposals could move higher in the queue.

Impact On Montana
Energy & Natural Resources - More proposals; tighter timelines for comment/mitigation.
Tribal Nations - Adjacent projects raise consultation workload and sovereignty concerns.
Small Towns/Counties - Planning, road, and emergency services feel impact first; staffing is thin.

Why It Matters
This EO is a cornerstone of Project 2025's campaign to dismantle climate governance and entrench fossil fuel interests within the federal government. It replaces science-driven policy with energy nationalism and gives industry wide latitude to shape U.S. environmental decisions at home and abroad. Centralized push speeds projects, but **rural communities absorb the frictions**—traffic, housing pressure, reclamation oversight—unless mitigation is funded and enforceable.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Energy
• Department of the Interior
• Environmental Protection Agency
• Department of Commerce
• Council on Environmental Quality

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14213
• Additional Sources: Natural Resources Defense Council, Energy Information Administration, Government Accountability Office
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-orders-fossil-fuel-expansion-energy-dominance
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/energy-environment/report/make-energy-dominance-national-policy
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14213
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/energy-dominance-council-analysis

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: May face challenges for preempting statutory environmental safeguards and bypassing NEPA procedures. Congressional Approval: Not required for formation of interagency councils but subject to appropriation and oversight. Environmental and tribal groups are preparing litigation to halt lease expansions and to challenge the NEDC's authority to override permitting processes. Congressional Democrats have pledged hearings into conflicts of interest within the Council's leadership.

EO 14214 - Keeping Education Accessible and Ending COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates in Schools

Overview. Prohibits discretionary Federal funds to schools that require COVID-19 vaccination, and directs ED/HHS to issue guidance ensuring access without mandates. In MT, this interacts with local control and school nurse capacity—potentially chilling public-health measures beyond COVID. Federal Register+1

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Tracks "parental rights/anti-mandate" planks and deprioritizing federal public-health conditions. (Contemporaneous WH fact sheet and ED guidance reinforce the posture.) The White House+1

Impact on Democracy Subverts local governance and public-health autonomy. Communities are commanded from above on matters of science and safety, taught that obedience equals freedom.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Funding leverage:** Districts weigh federal dollars vs. any local COVID policies.
- **Spillover risk:** Could discourage other school vaccination or mitigation policies by confusion or fear of losing funds.
- **Admin load:** Superintendents/OPI parse shifting guidance; small districts lack legal staff.

Impact On Montana

Rural Health & Schools - Nurse/counselor time shifts to compliance; messaging confusion for families.

Tribal Nations - Tribal schools balancing IHS guidance and federal funding constraints.

Low-Income Families - Outbreaks hit attendance and childcare stability hardest.

Why It Matters

This EO operationalizes Project 2025's vision of dismantling public health authority and reframing vaccine mandates as federal overreach. It positions education policy as a platform for ideological messaging about personal liberty, even at the cost of communal safety. Using federal purse strings to police school health policy creates uncertainty for rural districts and may widen gaps in attendance and learning when outbreaks happen.

Agencies Affected: Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Media & Reference Sources:
- Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14214
- Additional Sources: American Academy of Pediatrics, Education Week, National School Boards Association
- FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-bans-vax-mandates-schools
- MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/education/commentary/why-the-federal-government-should-end-vaccine-mandates
- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14214
- FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/education-vaccine-mandate-policy-analysis

Notes & Legal Conflicts:

Constitutionality: Being litigated—critics cite violation of states' rights and overreach in education governance. Congressional Approval: Not required for conditional funding restrictions. Education and civil rights organizations have filed suit alleging federal overreach and violation of disability protections. Experts warn that the EO undermines local governance and may chill future disease control efforts in educational settings.

EO 14215 - Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies

Overview
Requires all executive departments and independent agencies (with a narrow carve-out for the Fed's monetary policy) to submit all "significant regulatory actions" to OIRA for White House review prior to publication. In practice, this extends centralized cost-benefit review across the board, reshaping timelines for EPA, FERC, FCC, etc. that touch Montana's air, water, energy, and broadband.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Long-standing conservative goal to place independent agencies under OIRA/White House oversight; early practitioner notes stress likely slow-downs and stronger presidential control. Forbes+1

Stated Goal
"Ensure Presidential supervision and control" of the executive branch; produce a "unified and coherent" execution of federal law. Great for the president in office!

Impact on Democracy Nullifies independence designed to protect citizens from political capture. The watchdogs now answer to the very hand they were meant to check.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Rules may slow:** EPA air/water updates, FERC transmission orders, and broadband rules face extra OIRA passes.
- **Permit uncertainty:** Timelines for rules that underpin permits (mining, timber, energy, habitat) become harder to predict.
- **Small-entity pinch:** MT small utilities and businesses plan around moving compliance targets.

Impact On Montana
Energy/Infrastructure - Transmission/basin-wide standards delayed or revised mid-stream.
Agriculture/Timber - Pesticide/forest and water-quality rules linger longer in review.
Rural Broadband - FCC program rules could face added review cycles.

Why It Matters
This EO enacts a core plank of Project 2025: converting neutral federal institutions into tools of executive ideological control. It removes structural safeguards intended to ensure rule-of-law governance and transforms agency oversight into political enforcement. When every "big" rule must clear OIRA, timelines stretch. For a rural, resource-dependent state, uncertainty itself is a cost—projects stall, financing slips, and local governments can't plan.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Government Efficiency
• Office of Management and Budget
• All Executive Branch Agencies

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14215
• Additional Sources: Project on Government Oversight, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Merit Systems Protection Board
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-orders-strict-agency-performance
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/government-reform/report/a-new-era-of-accountability-in-

washington
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14215
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/agency-accountability-order-reviewed

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Highly controversial—expected to be challenged as a violation of due process, whistleblower protections, and the separation of powers. Congressional Approval: Not required but could face oversight or defunding efforts. Whistleblower protection groups are preparing challenges to the EO's disciplinary provisions, warning of political retaliation and suppression of lawful dissent. Legal scholars have flagged this EO as a significant threat to independent, evidence-based governance.

EO 14216 - Expanding Access to In Vitro Fertilization

Overview
Symbolically pro-IVF, this EO orders HHS and the White House Domestic Policy team to recommend ways to "drastically" reduce out-of-pocket costs. It does **not** mandate coverage, appropriate new funds, or override state limits—so near-term access in rural states hinges on what follow-up rules and funding actually materialize.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Tracks "family formation" priorities and centralized re-prioritization at HHS; not a core mandate but consistent with broader themes.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Lower costs and reduce barriers to IVF nationwide.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Coverage doesn't change automatically; IVF can still run $12k–$25k per cycle.
IHS/tribal and critical-access hospitals need explicit funding/billing guidance or they'll keep referring out.
Provider scarcity means long travel/waitlists even if some fees fall.

Impact On Montana
Rural Health: Potential policy tailwinds but no guaranteed dollars/clinics.
Tribal Nations: Without new resources, families still shoulder travel/time costs.
Students/Low-Income/Seniors: Minimal short-term effect absent coverage or grants.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
The EO opens the door—but it's not the doorway. Without binding coverage or funds, access stays limited by geography and price.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces)
HHS (CMS), White House Domestic Policy; MT DPHHS; IHS/tribal health programs.

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14216
• Additional Sources: American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Guttmacher Institute, Kaiser Health News
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-expands-ivf-access-amid-state-crackdowns
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/life/report/family-first-balancing-ivf-and-embryo-ethics
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14216
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/ivf-order-analysis

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Unlikely to be challenged—aligned with federal nondiscrimination and reproductive care precedent. Congressional Approval: Not required for administrative insurance guidance
The EO has triggered mixed reactions across ideological lines, with reproductive rights groups cautiously supportive and some religious organizations denouncing it as inconsistent with the administration's other policies.

EO 14217 - Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy

Overview
Structural downsizing: terminates or winds down named federal programs (e.g., coordination and talent pipelines) and consolidates functions—shifting more decision-making up the chain. For Montana, fewer on-the-ground federal staff and coordination channels mean slower permits, thinner technical help, and tougher grant navigation.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. **Direct execution of Project 2025's downsizing mandate: cut, shrink, destroy 50 percent of civil-service roles over time.** Implements "deconstruct the administrative state": shrink workforce, centralize control, prune programs. This EO is a cornerstone of Project 2025's plan to shrink the administrative state and shift power away from federal agencies. It reflects a deep ideological commitment to dismantling modern regulatory governance in favor of private sector delegation and executive control.

Impact on Democracy A smaller government of the people becomes a larger government over the people.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Field capacity drops drastically: USFS/BLM/USDA/VA lose coordination scaffolding that rural offices rely on.
Talent pipeline shrinks: Ending PMF/innovation fellowships narrows recruitment for hard-to-fill MT posts.
Grant/service friction: Small towns/tribes do more DC navigation with fewer federal interlocutors.

Impact On Montana
Rural Health & Clinics: Less technical assistance for upgrades/compliance.
Tribal Nations: Fewer liaisons slow consultation and service delivery.
Veterans/Low-Income/Seniors: Processing and outreach lag as staff lines thin.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
"Efficiency" in DC often means fewer people answering the phone in Helena, Browning, and Glendive—delays, dropped balls, missed funding windows.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces)
OPM, OMB, and components across DOI/USDA/VA/USFS (Montana field offices). Basically, everything.

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14217
• Additional Sources: American Federation of Government Employees, Brookings Institution, Congressional Budget Office
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-orders-deep-cuts-to-bloated-bureaucracy
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/government-reform/report/streamlining-federal-agencies-project-2025
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14217
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/federal-bureaucracy-reduction-analysis

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Expected to face union and statutory challenges, especially under RIF (Reduction in Force) and due process rules. Congressional Approval: Not required for personnel reductions within agency appropriations. Public employee unions are preparing lawsuits to challenge the EO's implementation and protect workers' rights. Critics argue that the policy undermines institutional knowledge and the capacity for effective program management.

EO 14218 - Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders

Overview
Directs agencies to identify programs where "illegal aliens" receive benefits and to realign/cut them; targets grants to states/localities seen as facilitating "sanctuary" policies. Anticipate stricter verification and more paperwork for providers and grantees—even where ineligible use is rare. This executive order terminates federal funding to sanctuary jurisdictions, NGOs, and public benefit programs that provide services to undocumented immigrants. It requires all federal agencies to audit and defund any grants or contracts that indirectly support undocumented populations, including education, housing, legal aid, and health care services. The EO directs the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice to enforce immigration compliance as a precondition for all federal program eligibility.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Leans on the PRWORA tradition to tighten eligibility and **curb perceived "subsidies."**

Impact Summary:
The EO strips support from states, cities, and organizations that assist undocumented immigrants, threatening basic access to shelter, food, and medical care. It also deters legal service providers and humanitarian groups from engaging in assistance work and introduces bureaucratic risk for local governments navigating compliance ambiguity. The result is widespread hardship for immigrant communities and a chilling effect on aid networks. Defunds refugee resettlement, community legal clinics, and aid groups. State and local governments inherit the cost of humanitarian crises.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Admin load: Clinics, schools, nonprofits face tighter verification and potential referrals to DHS/DOJ for suspected "improper use."
Grant conditions: New immigration-related certifications increase compliance costs for rural providers.

Impact On Montana
Rural Health: More front-desk screening; chilling effects for mixed-status families.
Tribal/Border Communities: Small staffs juggle more complex grant rules.
Students/Low-Income: Confusion suppresses uptake even among eligible residents.

Impact on Democracy Weaponizes budgeting to punish compassion. The public is told mercy is waste, solidarity subversion—erasing civic empathy as a democratic virtue.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO enacts a core component of Project 2025's hardline immigration agenda—using federal funding as a weapon to enforce ideological conformity at state and local levels. It aims to dismantle social infrastructure for immigrants and force political alignment with the administration's border policies. The headline sounds distant; the ripple is local: more forms, more checks, more uncertainty where Montana's admin capacity is thinnest.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces)
OMB/DOGE; DHS; HHS; ED; state/local subgrantees and contractors.

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14218
• Additional Sources: National Immigration Law Center, ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project, Migration Policy Institute

• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-orders-end-taxpayer-support-open-borders
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/immigration/report/defunding-open-border-programs-project-2025
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14218
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/open-borders-funding-order-fact-check

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Under challenge—critics cite violations of the Spending Clause, Tenth Amendment, and Equal Protection Clause. Congressional Approval: Not required for agency-level grant restrictions but may face oversight in appropriations reviews. Legal advocacy groups have filed multiple lawsuits challenging the EO as unconstitutional and harmful to public welfare. Several federal courts have already issued temporary injunctions halting enforcement in specific jurisdictions.

EO 14219 - Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative

Overview. Tells every agency to inventory and roll back rules subjectively deemed unconstitutional (not to DGE or adminstration's liking), beyond statutory text, or not supported by the views of the administration. Gives Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) authority to compile a Unified Agenda to unwind them. Agencies are also told to **scale back enforcement** they view as beyond statute. This executive order grants the Department of Government Efficiency (DGE) new authority to evaluate, suspend, or eliminate federal regulations that are not explicitly required by statute. It redefines the threshold for 'lawful governance' as strict alignment with administration policy, and directs all agencies to submit rule reviews to DGE for ideological and cost-efficiency screening. The EO also establishes a Regulatory Sunset Framework requiring agencies to justify the renewal of all existing rules every five years or face automatic expiration.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Core deregulatory playbook: rescind rules, narrow enforcement, centralize through OIRA.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Enforcement whiplash:** Short-term savings for some operators, but more uncertainty for ranches, mills, clinics, and schools about which standards will stick.
- **Consultation risks:** Fast rollbacks can sideline tribal consultation and public input on resource decisions.

Impact On Montana
- **Ag/Forestry/Energy:** Permit safeguards may loosen, but unpredictability complicates investment and insurance.
- **Rural Health & Education:** Guidance small districts/clinics rely on may be downgraded.
- **Tribal Nations:** Abrupt shifts erode predictability in co-management and cultural resource protections.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO embodies Project 2025's vision of removing checks on presidential control and hollowing out independent regulatory governance. It hands broad deregulatory power to a loyalty-screened body and forces agencies to continuously justify their existence under political scrutiny. Big firms can lawyer up; rural schools, clinics, and family farms cannot.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces). All cabinet agencies; OMB/OIRA to set the deregulatory agenda.

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14219
• Additional Sources: American Bar Association, Public Citizen, Administrative Conference of the U.S.
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-order-axes-costly-deep-state-regulations
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/government-regulation/report/project-2025-blueprint-regulatory-reset
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14219
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/regulatory-purge-order-reviewed

Notes & Legal Conflicts: Constitutionality: Highly contested—legal scholars argue it violates the Administrative Procedure Act and separation of powers. Congressional Approval: Not required for internal executive order but implementation may trigger judicial review. Several lawsuits have already been filed to block implementation of the sunset provision. Critics argue the EO grants DGE unlawful veto power over congressional intent and endangers decades of public interest protections.

EO 14220 - Addressing the Threat to National Security From Imports of Copper

Overview. Triggers a Section 232 national-security investigation into copper (all forms, including scrap/derivatives), citing foreign concentration and overcapacity. Remedies could include tariffs or quotas. For Montana—home to copper deposits and adjacent supply chains—outcomes could influence exploration, smelting/refining prospects, and equipment costs.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Consistent with onshoring critical minerals and expediting mining/refining. This EO is part of Project 2025's broader effort to redefine environmental, trade, and resource policy around nationalist and security-based frameworks. It positions strategic minerals as a vehicle for expanding executive power, reshaping land management, and decoupling from international regulatory norms.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **If tariffs/quotas hit first:** Prices rise for wire, motors, pumps, and irrigation systems before domestic capacity ramps.
- **Permitting focus:** Signals pressure to speed domestic mining/refining—raising local land/water concerns.

Impact On Montana
- **Energy/Ag/Natural Resources:** Construction/repair costs track copper prices; rural customers feel pass-through.
- **Tribal Nations:** Any mine/refinery proposals near tribal lands heighten consultation and EJ stakes.
- **Small Business & Households:** Contractors/utilities face higher input costs in the near term.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
"Secure copper" can mean new local projects—or just higher prices if trade barriers arrive before capacity does. Montana needs clarity on permits, water protections, and where refining would go, or costs land on rural families.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces)
Commerce (Sec. 232 lead), Defense, Interior, Energy; MT DEQ/local governments.

Other Agencies Affected: Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior, U.S. Trade Representative, Environmental Protection Agency

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14220
• Additional Sources: U.S. Geological Survey, Earthjustice, National Mining Association
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-copper-order-secures-american-industry
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/environment/report/strategic-minerals-americas-security-frontier
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14220
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/national-security-copper-order-explained

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Legally permitted, though past uses of Section 232 have faced judicial scrutiny over abuse of discretion. Congressional Approval: Not required for tariff imposition under Section 232.
Environmental watchdogs and Indigenous groups are monitoring the EO's implementation on federal lands. International trade experts predict WTO challenges and disruptions to global supply chains.

EO 14221 - Making America Healthy Again by Empowering Patients With Clear, Accurate, and Actionable Healthcare Pricing Information

Overview
Creates a federal push for hospital/insurer price transparency tools and enforcement. In practice, it pressures plans, hospitals, and vendors to publish "actual prices patients pay" and to simplify comparison tools. For Montana's rural system—built around Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) (about **50** statewide)—the transparency work is non-optional and resource-intensive, even as many facilities run thin margins.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Mirrors Heritage themes on "consumer empowerment" and transparency; not an explicit plank but consistent with that agenda.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Rural hospitals & clinics: New tech and staffing work to maintain compliant price tools; audit risk rises for Critical Access Hospitals; CAHs must keep price estimator tools accurate; noncompliance can trigger penalties or corrective action—hardest for small IT teams. Rural Health Information Hub; **Patients:** If implemented well, clearer out-of-pocket estimates for imaging, outpatient surgery, and common labs—useful in high-deductible plans prevalent in MT. **Payers/TPAs:** Must feed cleaner, machine-readable data; errors expose insurers and hospitals to enforcement.
Tribal Nations - IHS/tribal partner facilities aren't the primary target, but referrals to non-tribal hospitals depend on transparent, predictable pricing.
Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors - Transparency can reduce surprise bills; value depends on digital literacy and whether providers keep tools current.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Transparency can help rural families shop, but without technical assistance it's another unfunded mandate for small hospitals. The order raises expectations faster than it funds the work—so benefits hinge on whether Montana's smallest facilities can keep up. This EO reflects a Project 2025 strategy of market-based health reform emphasizing individual choice and price competition over universal coverage or cost controls. It reframes health care as a consumer good and limits the government's role to that of referee rather than provider.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Health and Human Services
• Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
• Office of Personnel Management

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14221
• Additional Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation, National Academy for State Health Policy, Health Affairs
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-orders-hospitals-post-prices
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/health-care-reform/report/price-transparency-and-consumer-choice
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14221
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/healthcare-price-transparency-order-analyzed

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Generally upheld, though some trade associations may challenge enforcement penalties.
Congressional Approval: Not required for regulatory guidance expansion under existing HHS authority.
Hospital associations and insurers have threatened litigation to block new penalties. Consumer groups are supportive but note the need for complementary measures to address systemic affordability gaps.

EO 14222 - Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Cost Efficiency Initiative

Overview. Launches a rapid, government-wide cost-cutting drive: crack down on travel and purchase cards, freeze or review leases, scrub subscriptions, and audit grants/contracts. The rhetoric is about "waste," but the timelines are so tight that small Montana field offices and grantees (rural health, education, wildfire work) will spend scarce time proving every expense instead of serving communities.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. The EO operationalizes the playbook's bureaucracy-reduction tactics and central budget controls without plan or method to replace what work, programs, contracts, grants are cut.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Rural programs:** Immediate reviews of leases, cards, and subscriptions can slow reimbursements to clinics, schools, and conservation crews.
- **Universities & NGOs:** Grant draws may face added documentation or pauses during "efficiency" sweeps.

Impact On Montana
Small Agencies & Field Offices
- USFS, BLM, and USDA field units in MT must re-justify vehicles, cards, and leases—delaying season-start hiring and procurement.

Rural Health & Clinics / Schools
- Payment lags from federal partners ripple to Critical Access Hospitals and school districts, forcing short-term borrowing or service deferrals.

Tribal Nations
- Program officers serving tribal grants face the same reviews, risking timing gaps for services.

Why It Matters: This EO operationalizes Project 2025's strategy of hollowing out the federal government by rebranding service reduction as cost savings. It consolidates fiscal control in the executive branch and pressures agencies to prioritize ideological compliance over effective governance.

Agencies Affected: Department of Government Efficiency, Office of Management and Budget, All Executive Agencies

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14222
• Additional Sources: Government Accountability Office, Congressional Budget Office, Brookings Institution
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-orders-budget-slimdown-efficiency-drive
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/budget-and-spending/report/project-2025-cutting-government-costs
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14222
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/cost-efficiency-order-analysis

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Likely legal in process but may trigger disputes if used to defund congressional mandates.
Congressional Approval: Not required for internal agency review orders.
Unions and advocacy groups are monitoring agency responses for signs of mission degradation or politically motivated cuts. Legal experts caution that the EO's vague criteria allow for selective defunding of politically disfavored services.

EO 14223 - Addressing the Threat to National Security From Imports of Timber, Lumber, and Their Derivative Products

Overview. Invokes Section 232 (national-security trade) to probe timber/lumber/derivative imports and consider tariffs/quotas. While pitched as supply-chain resilience, it sets up a path for broad import restrictions—raising construction and materials costs while overlapping with a domestic timber push.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Uses national-security trade tools to re-route supply chains and elevate domestic extraction.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Mills & loggers:** For Montana's wood products sector, this is double-edged: possible demand bump for local mills, but higher input volatility and retaliation risk for export markets and cost spikes on imported components/equipment.
- **Builders & families:** Higher lumber/wood product prices push up home and repair costs statewide.

Impact On Montana
- **Energy, Agriculture, Natural Resources**- Timber towns may gain shifts; contractors face price uncertainty on plywood, OSB, and cabinetry inputs.
- **Small Businesses & Households**- Hardware/DIY price pass-through hits rural budgets first.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO is part of Project 2025's strategy to subordinate environmental protections to resource extraction imperatives. It uses national security as a justification to override science-based forest management, reframe trade as a patriotic battle, and undermine global cooperation on climate resilience. 232 actions are broad and fast. If Commerce recommends tariffs, Montana families will feel it at the lumber aisle before mills can meaningfully expand capacity. The timing gap matters.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Commerce
• Department of the Interior
• U.S. Forest Service
• Environmental Protection Agency

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14223
• Additional Sources: World Resources Institute, National Wildlife Federation, U.S. Lumber Coalition
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-orders-wood-import-crackdown
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/environment/report/ending-timber-dependence-project-2025
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14223
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/timber-national-security-order-fact-check

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Permitted, though may be challenged under international treaty obligations and public trust doctrine. Congressional Approval: Not required for trade-based executive action

Environmental advocates and legal scholars anticipate lawsuits challenging the EO's logging directives under NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and treaty obligations. The Canadian government is also exploring WTO arbitration over tariff impacts.

EO 14224 - Designating English as the Official Language of the United States

Overview
Declares English the official language and revokes EO 13166 (2000) on improving access for persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), directing the Attorney General to rescind related guidance. Text says agencies needn't change non-English materials, but the policy signal weakens LEP coordination. In Montana, effects fall on tribal language revitalization spaces, immigrant families, and providers navigating consent and discharge in non-English contexts.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Cultural-uniformity plank; deemphasizes multilingual access in federal services.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Schools & health providers: More ambiguity about translation/interpretation funding and standards.
Tribal Nations: Symbolic conflict with language preservation efforts; practical impacts where federal partners pull back on LEP infrastructure.

Impact On Montana
Rural Health & Clinics
Hospitals and clinics may struggle to budget for interpreter services without clear federal expectations, risking consent and billing errors.
Students & Low-Income Households
Families with LEP face more paperwork barriers for benefits and school communication.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO serves as a symbolic and operational pillar of Project 2025's assimilationist and nationalist agenda. It reframes language diversity as a threat to national cohesion and uses language policy to restrict access to public services and democratic participation.
Even if some translations continue, ending EO 13166 coordination invites uneven access. In rural counties with few interpreters, "optional" quickly becomes "unavailable." It is a dumbing down effort to erase the diversity and richness of cultures.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Education
• Department of Health and Human Services
• Department of Homeland Security
• All Federal Agencies

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14224
• Additional Sources: National Immigration Law Center, ACLU Language Rights Project, Pew Research Center
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-declares-english-official-language
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/immigration/report/why-america-needs-an-official-language
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14224
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/official-language-order-analysis

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Contested—legal advocates cite potential violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and due process protections. Congressional Approval: Not required but implementation may be limited by statutory mandates.
Civil rights organizations have filed lawsuits to block the order, arguing it discriminates against language minorities and violates obligations under Title VI. Several states with large immigrant populations have refused to implement provisions at the state agency level.

EO 14225 - Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production

Overview
Orders Interior and Agriculture to accelerate timber sales and streamline permitting (NEPA categorical exclusions, ESA coordination), set multi-year timber-offer targets, and complete a Whitebark Pine programmatic consultation. For Montana, this means more, faster projects on USFS and BLM lands—while squeezing species review and public input timelines. Spelled out it instructs the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to increase logging quotas by 50% within the next year and streamline environmental permitting. The EO suspends key forest protections, including some provisions of the Roadless Rule and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to accelerate timber lease approvals.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Expands extractive output via executive levers; downshifts environmental review and safeguards.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **USFS Regions 1/2 footprint:** Increased offerings and wider use of categorical exclusions for thinning/salvage around MT forests.
- **Local mills & haulers:** Short-term volume opportunities; road/haul constraints and workforce capacity remain bottlenecks.
- **Conservation & recreation users:** Compressed comment windows and ESA consultations heighten conflict risk.

Impact On Montana
Energy, Agriculture, Natural Resources- Logging communities may see near-term contracts; long-term outcomes hinge on market prices and litigation.
Tribal Nations- Explicit reference to Tribal Forest Protection Act tools suggests more federal-tribal agreements; pace/consultation quality will be tested.
Rural Health & Public Safety- Thinning/salvage framed as wildfire-risk reduction; benefits depend on exact project siting and follow-through. Not any more than window covering for rural health and public safety.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO is a cornerstone of Project 2025's plan to exploit public lands for short-term economic gain while gutting environmental safeguards. It uses executive emergency framing to permanently weaken federal oversight and expand private sector control of public resources.
The EO 'turns every dial' at once—ESA, NEPA, targets. If agencies hit volume numbers by shortcutting review, Montana communities may inherit more litigation and planning churn. No safeguards built into this EO.

Agencies Affected:
• U.S. Forest Service
• Bureau of Land Management
• Department of the Interior
• Environmental Protection Agency

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14225
• Additional Sources: Wilderness Society, Earthjustice, American Forest & Paper Association
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-expands-timber-industry-national-interest
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/environment/report/project-2025-rebuilding-american-timber

• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14225
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/timber-expansion-order-legal-review

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Likely to be challenged for violating NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and tribal consultation statutes. Congressional Approval: Not required, but subject to defunding or legal injunctions Multiple environmental and tribal groups have filed for injunctive relief, citing irreversible damage to old-growth forests and treaty lands. Federal judges in western states are reviewing preliminary motions for stay of execution.

EO 14226 - Amendment to Duties To Address the Flow of Illicit Drugs Across Our Northern Border

Overview
Amends earlier "northern border duties" by tweaking how de minimis (sub-$800) imports are treated and clarifying tariff implementation mechanics. Practically, it keeps de minimis **temporarily available** for covered goods **until** Commerce certifies systems are ready to collect the new tariff on small parcels—after which de minimis ends for those goods. For Montana shippers using Sweetgrass, Roosville, Piegan, etc., this means more paperwork and fees are coming for low-value cross-border parts and supplies, with timing keyed to federal certifications.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Maps to the "weaponize tariff tools/border security" posture—use duties as enforcement leverage rather than Congress-led reforms. Heritage Foundation

Real-World Translation (Montana)

Border commerce: Low-value replacement parts (farm, ranch, small retail) move from near-frictionless to tariffable once Commerce certifies—raising landed costs and delays.
Small business compliance: Customs brokers and new HTS/entry rules add overhead that large chains absorb more easily.
Pharmacy mail-outs: Rural Montanans legally sourcing certain meds from Canada face new costs once de minimis turns off for covered goods.

Impact On Montana

Small Businesses & Households: Cost pass-through on hardware/tools; thin margins for main-street retailers compress.
Agriculture & Natural Resources: Tractor/implement parts and bearings in small shipments get pricier and slower, pinching during planting/harvest.
Tribal Nations: Blackfeet and other border-adjacent communities see higher costs for routine cross-border purchases.
Rural Health & Clinics: Mail-order supplies from Canadian distributors face added duty/brokerage once de minimis is shut off for covered goods.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana) This EO reflects Project 2025's effort to merge national security and trade policy into a centralized tool of coercive diplomacy. It applies economic punishment based on opaque enforcement standards and empowers the executive branch to reinterpret trade as a weapon against perceived domestic threats. Timing hinges on DC certifications, not local readiness. When the switch flips, the smallest parcels get new costs first—a regressive impact across rural Montana's small shops and households.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Homeland Security
• Department of Commerce
• U.S. Customs and Border Protection
• Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14226
• Additional Sources: Congressional Research Service, U.S.-Canada Trade Alliance, Center for Strategic and International Studies
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-cracks-down-drug-exports-canada

• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/trade/report/combating-drug-smuggling-through-tariff-tools
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14226
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/trade-drug-policy-integration-review

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Likely lawful under delegated trade powers but vulnerable to WTO challenge and judicial review if used arbitrarily. Congressional Approval: Not required for executive tariff amendments.
Canada and U.S. border-state officials have expressed concern over the order's potential impact on economic relations and legal trade flows. Legal observers note that the vague enforcement thresholds may invite litigation or international arbitration.

EO 14227 - Amendment to Duties To Address the Situation at Our Southern Border

Overview
Parallel update for "southern border" duties: clarifies that de minimis remains for now but can be terminated for covered articles once Commerce certifies collection systems are in place, and tweaks implementation mechanics. While south-border-focused, the duty/parcel rules cascade through national carriers—so Montana importers get the same small-parcel cost exposure as 14226 once the trigger is pulled.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Uses tariffs as a border-security tool and centralizes trade levers in the Executive—consistent with "fortify borders via trade policy" themes. Heritage Foundation

Real-World Translation (Montana)
- **Parcel networks:** National carriers apply new duty/brokerage handling across states; Montana e-commerce sellers see higher inbound costs on components and resell goods.
- **Auto/tractor repair:** Small, frequent orders face fees once de minimis flips off for covered items.

Impact On Montana
- **Small Businesses:** Compliance/admin costs scale poorly for micro-importers.
- **Rural Households:** Longer delivery windows as parcels are routed for duty processing.
- **Tribal Nations:** Added burden on online sellers buying raw materials from abroad.

Why It Matters. This EO advances Project 2025's goal of consolidating immigration, foreign policy, and trade under an authoritarian executive structure. It uses economic coercion as a substitute for multilateral strategy and imposes one-sided demands that bypass congressional diplomacy norms.
Even without a southern land border, Montana feels the nationwide parcel rule change; it's a cost/complexity increase disguised as border policy.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Commerce
• Department of State
• U.S. Customs and Border Protection
• U.S. Agency for International Development

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14227
• Additional Sources: Council on Foreign Relations, Congressional Research Service, Migration Policy Institute
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-hits-southern-countries-tariffs-migration-crackdown
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/immigration/report/using-tariffs-and-aid-leverage-border-cooperation
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14227
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/southern-border-tariffs-explained

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Potentially challengeable under separation of powers and treaty obligations. Congressional Approval: Not required for executive trade retaliation or aid conditions but subject to legal review.
Human rights groups and international trade experts have flagged the EO as a misuse of economic policy for political ends. Several Latin American nations have threatened reciprocal measures and may raise complaints in regional trade forums.

EO 14228 - Further Amendment to Duties Addressing the Synthetic Opioid Supply Chain in the PRC

Overview
Raises the extra ad valorem tariff on covered PRC products from 10% to 20% and reinforces the fentanyl-supply-chain emergency framing. Later, EO 14256 applies these duties to low-value imports once Commerce certifies collection systems are ready. For Montana, this touches farm inputs, small electronics/tools, and other PRC-origin goods commonly bought by small retailers and ranch operations. Federal Register+1

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Explicit "tariff as narcotics policy" and consolidation of trade levers in the Executive—core Mandate themes. Heritage Foundation

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Input costs: 20% add-on pushes up prices on PRC-origin shop tools, electronics, PPE, and some farm components.
Small parcel exposure: After EO 14256, even sub-$800 PRC parcels owe duties—ending the once-critical de minimis channel. Federal Register

Impact On Montana
Agriculture & Small Industry: Higher prices for pumps, bearings, small motors, and sensors used in precision ag; longer lead times.
Small Retailers: Bozeman/Missoula shops face thinner margins or higher shelf prices.

Why It Matters
It reframes drug policy as tariff policy. The cost shows up on Montana invoices—well before any measurable fentanyl interdiction gains. This EO operationalizes Project 2025's strategy of using aggressive unilateral trade powers as a substitute for international law enforcement coordination. It merges economic warfare with narcotics control and positions the executive branch as the sole arbiter of international compliance.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Homeland Security
• Department of Commerce
• Drug Enforcement Administration
• Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14228
• Additional Sources: RAND Corporation, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, Brookings Institution
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-sanctions-china-over-fentanyl-supply-chain
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/asia/report/stopping-china-fentanyl-pipeline-project-2025
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14228
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/fentanyl-trade-order-fact-check

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Within executive discretion but vulnerable to WTO complaint or retaliation. Congressional Approval: Not required for IEEPA actions or sanctions under existing trade statutes

Legal and diplomatic analysts caution that the EO may violate WTO non-discrimination rules and spark retaliatory trade measures. Some humanitarian and public health groups worry it will affect the availability of legal medications and chemicals used in medical research.

EO 14229 - Honoring Jocelyn Nungaray

Overview
Symbolic order renaming Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Texas as the Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge and framing the action within broader "border security" rhetoric. No direct programmatic changes for Montana, but it reinforces a national messaging arc used to justify punitive border/trade measures that do affect Montana (see 14226–27).

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Uses high-profile symbolism to sustain a security narrative that undergirds expansive Executive actions elsewhere. Heritage Foundation

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Feeds the policy storyline behind northern/southern duty EOs that increase costs for Montana households and small businesses.

Impact On Montana
Indirect effect is narrative support for adjacent policies with real costs in MT.

Why It Matters
Symbolic EOs can normalize sweeping enforcement/tariff moves—Montana sees the costs from those, even if the renaming itself is harmless.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Justice
• Department of Homeland Security
• Department of Education

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14229
• Additional Sources: National Center for Victims of Crime, Migration Policy Institute, Southern Poverty Law Center
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-honors-victim-day-crime-awareness
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/immigration/report/policy-response-criminal-alien-violence
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14229
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/honoring-jocelyn-nungaray-order-reviewed

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
While no direct legal challenges are expected, immigrant rights groups have criticized the EO's messaging as exploitative and fear it will contribute to racial profiling and fear-based policy escalation.

EO 14230 - Addressing Risks From Perkins Coie LLP

Overview
Targets a private law firm (Perkins Coie) and instructs agencies to suspend security clearances tied to the firm, review and potentially terminate contracts, require disclosures about business with the firm, and limit official engagement—explicitly linking to EO 14147 ("Ending the Weaponization of the Federal Government"). A federal judge later blocked core parts, finding likely legal defects.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Tracks Mandate themes to punish perceived political enemies, dismantle DEI-related practices, and concentrate executive control over contracting/clearances. Heritage Foundation

Impact Summary:
The EO singles out a private law firm historically aligned with Democratic Party clients and bars it from working with the federal government. It breaks precedent by using executive authority to blacklist a legal institution based on partisan associations, setting a controversial precedent for politicizing federal legal procurement.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
University/Local Gov Contracts: Any MT public entity (or vendor) with counsel engagements intersecting federal grants may face disclosure burdens and chilled relationships.
Legal Ecosystem: MT firms partnering with national firms could get swept into contract "reviews," complicating federal grant compliance.
Civil Service Climate: Signals broader Executive pressure campaigns against institutions viewed as adversarial.

Impact On Montana |
Small Governments & Nonprofits: Extra compliance/legal costs to navigate federal grant or contracting disclosures.
Courts & Rule of Law: Heightened polarization and perceived politicization of federal levers reverberate in MT's legal community.

Why It Matters
Even if you've never hired Perkins Coie, this EO's structure—use of contracting/clearances to target disfavored actors—telegraphs a playbook that can be aimed at other firms, universities, or NGOs. That uncertainty alone raises costs for Montana grantees and contractors.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Justice
• General Services Administration
• All Federal Contracting Agencies

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14230
• Additional Sources: American Bar Association, Government Accountability Office, Brennan Center for Justice
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-blacklists-democrat-law-firm-perkins-coie
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/government-reform/report/removing-conflicted-legal-influence-federal-policy

• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14230
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/perkins-coie-ban-legal-analysis

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Statutory Authority: Claimed under federal contracting discretion and national security risk management. Constitutionality: Likely to face legal challenge for violating First Amendment rights, due process, and procurement neutrality. Congressional Approval: Not required but may trigger investigations or appropriations limitations. Constitutional scholars and legal ethics organizations have condemned the EO as a direct threat to independent legal representation and professional association rights. Litigation is underway challenging the order's legality and chilling effect on First Amendment-protected activity.

EO 14231 - Amendment to Duties To Address the Flow of Illicit Drugs Across Our Northern Border

Overview
Tweaks the earlier northern-border tariffs to soften collateral damage: exempts USMCA duty-free Canadian goods from the extra ad valorem tariff and cuts potash's add-on rate from 25% to 10%. Administration frames this as protecting U.S. auto supply chains while maintaining pressure on illicit drug routes. For Montana, it narrows—but does not remove—costs and delays that ripple through border trade and farm inputs.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Tracks Heritage's tariff-as-security playbook (use duties as flexible levers while calibrating carve-outs that shield domestic industries). Relevance: keeps the tough-on-border optics while smoothing impacts where U.S. firms complain (auto, fertilizers).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Minimize disruption to U.S. automotive supply chains.
Maintain pressure tied to drug interdiction.

Impact Summary:
The EO intensifies punitive trade measures and surveillance targeting commercial imports from U.S. allies under the pretext of drug interdiction. It may trigger diplomatic retaliation and increase costs across key U.S. industries reliant on Canadian supply chains. While symbolically tough on drugs, it risks unintended consequences for lawful trade and undermines bilateral cooperation frameworks.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Border friction remains:** inspections, paperwork, and variable costs continue at Sweetgrass, Roosville, Piegan—even if some Canadian goods dodge the extra tariff.
- **Fertilizer inputs:** potash add-on drops to **10%**, moderating (not eliminating) input inflation for growers.

Impact On Montana
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Slight relief on fertilizer costs; continued exposure on machinery, parts, and non-USMCA-qualifying inputs.
Border Communities & Logistics
Persistent delays raise landed costs for small retailers and ranch operations timed to season.
Tribal Nations
Cross-border travel/commerce on Blackfeet homelands still face stepped-up scrutiny; carve-outs don't address sovereignty frictions.
Small Businesses & Households
Volatile freight and brokerage fees remain hard to absorb for micro-importers.

Cross-refs: **EO 14193** (Northern Border duties), **EO 14289** (later adjustments).

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana).
This EO illustrates Project 2025's broader redefinition of trade, diplomacy, and public health enforcement through unilateral executive action. It consolidates national security rhetoric into an aggressive economic agenda that sidelines traditional international coordination in favor of coercive leverage.
The headline concession (USMCA exemption; potash relief) doesn't end tariff churn. Rural operations still live with uncertain costs and timing at northern ports, and small firms can't hedge those shocks like national chains can.

Agencies Affected (Montana interfaces). DHS/CBP (port ops), Treasury (collection), USTR/Commerce (HTS guidance); MT Dept. of Commerce; customs brokers at MT crossings.

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14231
• Additional Sources: Migration Policy Institute, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, Center for Strategic and International Studies
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-expands-tariffs-to-fight-border-drugs
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/trade/report/targeted-tariff-policy-fentanyl-response
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14231
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/northern-border-drug-tariffs-review

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Executive authority likely upheld under IEEPA, though WTO and NAFTA/USMCA legal challenges are anticipated. Congressional Approval: Not required for these executive tariff adjustments Canadian officials have condemned the EO as unjustified and counterproductive. Legal analysts expect lawsuits from U.S. businesses affected by the expanded duties, as well as potential disputes under USMCA provisions.

EO 14232 - Amendment to Duties To Address the Flow of Illicit Drugs Across Our Southern Border

Overview
Mirrors 14231 for Mexico: exempts USMCA duty-free Mexican goods from the extra ad valorem rate; cuts potash's add-on to 10%. Marketed as balancing security with supply-chain realities. For Montana, the indirect effects show up in pricing for farm inputs and consumer goods sourced via national distributors.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Same "tariffs as enforcement" model—tempered by carve-outs so core industries don't revolt. Relevance: maintains high-salience border narrative while managing domestic blowback.

Impact Summary:
The EO amplifies trade restrictions and inspection delays at U.S. southern border ports of entry, impacting agriculture, manufacturing, and energy sectors. It risks damaging bilateral relations with key trading partners and undercuts binational cooperation on crime prevention, environmental protection, and migration governance.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Input costs:** modest relief on fertilizers; other imports still face layered tariffs/compliance.
- **Pass-through pricing:** distributors' national pricing changes show up on MT shelves.

Impact On Montana

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Some easing on fertilizer; machinery/parts still volatile.

Small Businesses & Households
Ongoing tariff/brokerage pass-throughs keep prices jumpy for hardware, tools, auto parts.

Rural Health
Mail-order medical supplies sourced through southern logistics lanes may see cost variability.

Why It Matters:
This EO advances Project 2025's enforcement-centric vision of immigration and foreign policy. It illustrates the use of economic punishment not just to deter drug trafficking, but to reshape political alignment in the region. It further isolates the executive branch from diplomatic accountability and legislative oversight. Even softened, these duties embed uncertainty in supply chains that Montana relies on. Small shops and farms eat the spread when logistics and tariffs keep moving targets.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Homeland Security
• Department of State
• Department of Commerce
• U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14232
• Other Sources: Congressional Research Service, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Amer Farm Bureau Federation
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-expands-mexico-drug-tariffs-border-response
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/immigration/report/southern-border-tariff-policy-analysis
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14232
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/southern-border-trade-enforcement-review

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: May face international and domestic legal review; separation-of-powers questions persist if used to bypass Congress. Congressional Approval: Not required for tariff expansion under delegated authorities Legal experts anticipate challenges to the EO's use of economic coercion without congressional authorization. Regional trade alliances and humanitarian groups have criticized the order's impact on cross-border economies and civilian well-being.

EO 14233 - Establishment of the Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and United States Digital Asset Stockpile

Overview
Signals a policy tilt toward holding crypto as a strategic asset. This executive order establishes the Strategic Bitcoin Reserve (SBR) as a sovereign digital asset stockpile held by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. It authorizes the acquisition, custody, and use of Bitcoin and select digital assets to enhance U.S. financial resilience against inflation, sanctions, and foreign currency manipulation. The EO also creates a Digital Asset Security Council (DASC) to oversee cybersecurity and market stability in federal crypto asset holdings. Creates a federal Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and a broader U.S. Digital Asset Stockpile, initially capitalized with forfeited crypto assets. Directs Treasury to centralize custody, bar routine sales of BTC, and deliver a legal/investment evaluation; allows budget-neutral strategies to acquire additional BTC, while limiting non-BTC acquisitions absent new action.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Aligns with calls to centralize financial power in the executive and to champion "America-first" digital finance tools. Relevance: legitimizes federal crypto holdings; could steer regulation and institutional behavior.

Impact Summary:
The EO breaks precedent by treating Bitcoin as a strategic commodity akin to gold or oil. Critics argue it exposes U.S. monetary policy to high volatility and speculative risk, while boosting the value of an asset class often linked to financial secrecy and fraud. Supporters view it as a hedge against traditional market instability and global de-dollarization efforts.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Signal risk:** State and local institutions (pensions, treasurers) may read this as a green light, increasing exposure to a volatile asset class—without any mandate or backstop.
- **Law-enforcement flows:** Forfeited assets can be shared with state/local partners; MT agencies could see more in-kind or proceeds distributions tied to crypto cases.

Impact On Montana

Public Finance / Pensions
Policy signaling may pressure boards to consider crypto—introducing **volatility risk** to retiree funds.

Small Tech & Universities
UM/MSU may see new research partnerships/grants orbiting custody, compliance, and digital-asset security.

Law Enforcement & Courts
More complex asset handling; training/custody needs for county attorneys and sheriffs if crypto distributions rise.

Why It Matters
Once Washington brands BTC as a strategic reserve asset, the risk appetite shifts nationally. That can cascade into Montana institutions and retirees—even though the EO offers no safety net if prices swing. This EO exemplifies Project 2025's disruption of legacy economic governance structures. It bypasses the Federal Reserve's authority over monetary tools, reshapes U.S. global financial policy around digital libertarianism, and opens the door for ideologically driven manipulation of national reserves.

Agencies Affected:
• U.S. Department of the Treasury
• Department of Commerce
• Securities and Exchange Commission
• Internal Revenue Service

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14233
• Additional Sources: U.S. Treasury Department, Congressional Budget Office, Blockchain Association
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-launches-bitcoin-reserve-national-security
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/economic-and-financial-markets/report/project-2025-bitcoin-monetary-sovereignty
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14233
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/strategic-bitcoin-reserve-fact-check

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Constitutionality: Expected to be challenged if interpreted as redefining legal tender or conflicting with Federal Reserve mandates. Congressional Approval: Not required for reserve acquisitions, but future appropriations and regulatory implementation may face scrutiny
Economists and legal experts are divided over the order's fiscal prudence. Critics warn of market distortion and loss of transparency, while others fear increased political interference in monetary functions traditionally protected from executive control.

EO 14234 - Establishing the White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup 2026

Overview
Sets up a White House Task Force—housed in DHS—to coordinate federal support for the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup and 2026 FIFA World Cup. Requires agency plans/reports and centralizes event security/logistics. Montana isn't a host, but federal staff and grant attention can be **reallocated** toward LA-centric priorities.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implied. Emphasizes prestige projects and centralized executive coordination—consistent with Heritage themes on national pageantry and security optics.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Seamless interagency support; national-level security, transport, and public-health readiness.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Resource diversion risk: TSA/DOT/DOJ staffing attention may tilt toward LA28 timelines, thinning capacity at Billings, Missoula, Great Falls airports or delaying non-Olympic grants.

Impact On Montana
Education & Youth Programs
Federal funds and staff time skew to Olympics; rural youth sports/wellness grants may slip in the queue.
Public Safety & Health
MT National Guard/DPHHS could see training/contingency taskings that crowd out local priorities.

Why It Matters
Prestige coordination can come with **opportunity costs**: fewer agency hours for rural needs just when Montana schools, clinics, and small airports are stretched.

Agencies / Legal
DHS (host), State/Treasury/DOJ/DOT/HHS, FBI, others; standard interagency EO authorities. Federal Register

EO 14235 - Restoring Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Overview
Directs the Secretary of Education to propose revisions to 34 CFR 685.219 (PSLF) that exclude organizations engaged in activities deemed to have a "substantial illegal purpose" (e.g., aiding immigration violations, terrorism support, certain discriminatory or disorderly-conduct patterns). Framed as "restoring" PSLF, the order narrows eligibility rather than expanding it. For Montana, where PSLF helps staff rural schools, clinics, fire/EMS, and nonprofits, any categorical exclusions can shrink pathways to forgiveness.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Maps to Heritage's push to restrict federal benefits from groups it labels harmful, and to reshape higher-ed incentives. Relevance: constricts PSLF access in ideologically charged areas (immigration, civil rights, LGBTQ+ services).

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Eligibility uncertainty:** Public servants employed by NGOs caught in new exclusion categories could **lose PSLF credit**—even if they serve rural communities.
- **Hiring headwinds:** Rural districts, hospitals, and sheriffs' offices rely on PSLF to recruit/retain talent; chilling effects make vacancies harder to fill.

Impact On Montana

Rural Health & Clinics
Nurses, behavioral-health staff in nonprofit settings could face PSLF uncertainty—risking turnover.

Education & Public Safety. Teachers, school counselors, firefighters, and law enforcement officers may hesitate to join/ stay if local nonprofits or public employers get swept into exclusions.

Tribal Nations. Tribal and tribal-partner nonprofits may face added scrutiny, complicating recruitment pipelines that already struggle to fill roles.

Why It Matters. Montana's service networks depend on PSLF as a recruitment lifeline. Narrowing eligibility by ideology risks staffing shortages in the very places—rural schools, clinics, and EMS—where replacements are hardest to find.

Agencies Affected: Dept of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid Office of Management and Budget

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14235
• Additional Sources: National Education Association, Public Service Loan Forgiveness Coalition, Student Borrower Protection Center
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-restores-loan-forgiveness-public-servants
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/education/report/rethinking-loan-forgiveness-within-project-2025
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14235
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/public-service-loan-forgiveness-order-explained

Notes & Legal Conflicts: The EO is expected to face administrative pushback from fiscal conservatives, but legal challenges are unlikely to succeed. Implementation speed and clarity will determine its public impact and future durability. Constitutionality: Likely to be upheld; prior legal challenges to PSLF have centered on implementation, not legality**.** Congressional Approval: Not required for administrative reform of existing programs

EO 14236 - Additional Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions

Overview
This executive order rescinds or nullifies additional executive actions and regulations issued under previous administrations, with a particular focus on orders related to climate policy, diversity initiatives, reproductive health protections, and international cooperation. The EO authorizes agency heads to identify and repeal guidance documents, task forces, and programs that 'contradict constitutional governance or national strength.'

Broad "clean-out" order that revokes additional prior EOs, guidance, and memoranda—especially those tied to civil rights, environmental safeguards, and administrative transparency. The net effect in Montana is fewer federal guardrails on land, water, and school policy, with agencies directed to stand down or rewrite internal guidance quickly.

Impact Summary:
The EO accelerates the rollback of regulatory and policy structures aligned with progressive values, including environmental justice, reproductive freedom, racial equity, and multilateralism. It grants sweeping discretion to political appointees to rewrite agency missions and signals an executive priority on cultural and ideological reversal. Revokes dozens of EOs on environmental justice, worker protections, gender equity, and government ethics. Agencies lose policy continuity, creating regulatory voids exploited by private interests.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Implements Phase III of the mass-rescission plan to erase regulatory and accountability frameworks established between 2021–2024.Mirrors the Mandate's call to rapidly rescind "woke" or "burdensome" (read, 'regulatory') directives and centralize control in the Executive.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Agencies lose/cancel prior guidance that MT districts, tribes, and small towns relied on—for civil-rights enforcement, environmental review, grant eligibility, and records access.

Impact On Montana
Education & Civil Rights: Thinner federal backstops for discrimination complaints and Title VI/IX compliance.
Public Lands & Water: Faster permit paths; weaker NEPA-style process references.
Local Gov't: More discretion—but fewer templates, checklists, and technical assistance.

Impact on Democracy The wholesale deletion of oversight rules dissolves the people's guardrails against abuse. Citizens are told erasure is reform—while public protections vanish behind slogans of "freedom."

Why It Matters
This EO enforces a cornerstone of Project 2025: eradicating the legacy of previous administrations by systematically dismantling regulatory and social equity frameworks. It reframes policy continuity as a liability and replaces institutional memory with executive loyalty.

Agencies Affected (MT interfaces)
DOI/BLM, EPA Region 8, DOE/ED, DOJ/EEOC, OMB.

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14236
• Additional Sources: Brennan Center for Justice, American Constitution Society, Natural Resources Defense Council

• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-rescinds-dozens-left-wing-orders
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/government-regulation/report/project-2025-cleaning-house
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14236
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/executive-order-rescission-review

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Watchdog organizations are compiling lists of revoked orders and preparing challenges to specific rescissions that may violate statutory mandates or constitutional protections. The EO's breadth and ambiguity may invite litigation over vague repeal directives.
Constitutionality: Executive authority to rescind prior EOs is generally upheld, but agency interpretations may be litigated if conflicting with statutes.

Diving in a little Deeper

EO 14236 rescinds **18 additional prior executive actions**—including executive orders, presidential memoranda, determinations, and national security memoranda—primarily issued between 2021 and 2024. Many addressed public health, labor standards, climate-related supply chains, biotechnology, Tribal governance, and human rights. The rescissions are justified by the administration as removal of "harmful" policies but collectively represent a broad rollback of prior executive-branch commitments.

EO 14148 rescinded **78 executive orders and presidential memoranda** broadly across civil rights, public health, environment, immigration, workforce labor standards, Tribal self-determination and democratic infrastructure.

Taken together, EO 14148 and EO 14236 rescind **nearly a decade of executive-branch commitments** spanning civil rights, climate policy, public health, labor standards, Tribal self-determination, and democratic infrastructure.

While framed as removal of "harmful" actions, the cumulative effect is a structural rollback of public protection safeguards and expertise across the federal government.

These mass rescissions order by revoking additional sets of executive actions spanning public health, labor standards, climate and energy supply chains, Tribal governance, biotechnology, and human rights—further consolidating the rollback initiated at the start of the administration. The full list of rescinded actions is available in the Federal Register and **See** *Appendix - All the previous Executive Orders Revoked by EO 14148.*

EO 14237 - Addressing Risks From Paul Weiss

Overview
Targets a specific law firm for contracting/security-clearance restrictions; ordered agencies to assess contracts within 30 days. Short-lived but notable for the precedent of punitive vendor-screening by ideology. The American Presidency Project+1 This executive order prohibits federal agencies from entering into new contracts, legal representation agreements, or consulting arrangements with the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. It cites alleged conflicts of interest, involvement in politically sensitive investigations, and perceived ideological bias. The EO mandates a full audit of all existing relationships between federal entities and Paul Weiss dating back to 2010.

Project 2025 Aligment. Implied. Expands the blacklist strategy—weaponizing state power against firms tied to prior administrations or opposition causes. Extends the "de-wokeify government" theme into procurement/clearances.

Stated Goal
"Protect the national interest" by limiting government ties to disfavored firms.

Impact Summary:
The EO politicizes federal legal contracting by blacklisting a prominent firm associated with Democratic administrations and civil rights litigation. It introduces loyalty-based contracting criteria and reinforces the administration's strategy of targeting institutions seen as aligned with political opposition. Directs DOJ, SEC, and federal contractors to investigate and sever ties with Paul Weiss LLP. Sends a warning throughout the legal community to avoid disfavored clients.

Impact on Democracy Turns professional independence into political risk. Citizens are taught that loyalty to the leader, not to law, defines justice—a signature of authoritarian rule.

Why It Matters:
This EO furthers Project 2025's campaign to consolidate executive control over legal narratives and purge perceived ideological adversaries from federal influence. It signals that professional independence and legal expertise are subordinate to political loyalty in the current regime's governance model. Even a one-week order can reset norms: it signals that federal business can hinge on political lists—not performance.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Creates compliance churn for MT universities, hospitals, and cities using federal dollars if any prime/sub contractors trigger disclosure clauses.

Impact On Montana
Universities/Local Gov: Extra diligence on legal vendors.
Small Vendors: Fear/uncertainty about "who's next" chills competition.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Justice
• General Services Administration
• All Federal Legal and Contracting Authorities

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14237
• Additional Sources: Brennan Center for Justice, Government Accountability Project, American Bar

Association
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-bans-paul-weiss-fed-contracts
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/government-reform/report/removing-conflicted-counsel-from-public-affairs
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14237
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/paul-weiss-executive-order-analysis

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Multiple lawsuits are expected, with plaintiffs arguing the EO constitutes unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination and undermines legal independence. Civil liberties groups warn of a chilling effect on firms representing unpopular or oppositional clients. Constitutionality: Under challenge—critics argue the EO violates due process, equal protection, and First Amendment rights. Congressional Approval: Not required but may be subject to oversight or funding limitations

Sources
FR disposition (14237, 14244) and Presidency Project text. Federal Register+1

EO 14238 - Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy

Overview
This executive order extends the downsizing measures initiated under EO 14217 by mandating an additional 10% reduction in civilian executive branch staffing over the next 12 months. It expands buyout programs, authorizes early retirement packages, and instructs agency heads to consolidate duplicative or low-priority offices. The EO also limits the hiring of non-political career staff and empowers the Department of Government Efficiency to directly review and override staffing plans.
Restructures or eliminates targeted federal entities (e.g., cultural, mediation, homelessness, media/communications bodies), consolidating programs and staff. For Montana, it thins out grant sources and technical assistance channels used by rural and tribal communities.

Project 2025
Direct. Shrink/reshape the civil service and quasi-independent agencies. Pushes forward the workforce-purge mandate—"complete the transformation" of the civil service into a leaner, loyalist structure.

Impact Summary:
The EO deepens executive authority over agency personnel decisions, further eroding institutional autonomy. It accelerates attrition and knowledge loss in areas like environmental protection, health science, and labor enforcement. Supporters frame the policy as budget discipline; critics warn it is strategic sabotage of the administrative state. Imposes permanent position caps and automatic attrition targets; converts career posts to temporary appointments. Federal capacity to deliver services collapses unevenly.

Impact on Democracy A hollowed-out state can no longer serve its citizens, only command them. The public is told smaller government means greater liberty, yet finds itself powerless before unaccountable authority.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Fewer grant competitions; reduced TA for museums, libraries, housing/homelessness initiatives; slower mediation/conciliation services.

Impact On Montana Rural capacity is already stretched. Removing small but crucial federal supports hits MT communities first. **Cultural/Library/Homelessness Grants:** Thinner pipelines to small towns.
Rural Nonprofits: Less federal TA to manage compliance.

Why It Matters
This EO represents Project 2025's most aggressive step yet in dismantling the career civil service. It eliminates oversight capacity, disrupts continuity of government operations, and ensures future policy is shaped only by politically appointed loyalists.

Agencies Affected:
• Office of Personnel Management
• Department of Government Efficiency
• All Executive Branch Agencies

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14238
• Additional Sources: Partnership for Public Service, National Treasury Employees Union, Congressional Budget Office
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-continues-federal-bureaucracy-reduction

• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/government-reform/report/project-2025-implementing-workforce-discipline
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14238
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/federal-bureaucracy-reduction-follow-up

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Federal unions and legal advocates are preparing challenges over implementation processes. Watchdog organizations fear the EO will accelerate politicization, disincentivize public service careers, and destabilize critical federal functions. Constitutionality: Unclear—likely permissible for personnel management, though implementation may violate whistleblower, veterans' preference, and equal protection statutes
Congressional Approval: Not required, but Congress may act through appropriations or oversight hearings

EO 14239 - Achieving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness

Overview
This executive order shifts primary responsibility for emergency preparedness, public health response, and disaster recovery to state and local governments. It reduces federal funding for FEMA non-defense readiness programs and eliminates technical assistance grants for state public health infrastructure. The EO reframes the federal role as advisory, except in cases of national security, and directs agencies to limit proactive deployment unless explicitly requested by a state governor.
Shifts preparedness doctrine toward state/local "efficiency," launching a national resilience strategy while streamlining federal roles. In practice, pushes responsibility downward without guaranteed new funding—tough for Montana counties that already operate on shoestring budgets.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Elevates federalism themes and trims centralized requirements. Implements "devolution of responsibility" without resources—shifting federal obligations to states in line with Heritage's fiscal-austerity doctrine.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Counties/tribes shoulder more planning, exercises, and critical-infrastructure work with fewer federal templates and staff.

Impact Summary:
The EO weakens federal disaster response capabilities and leaves vulnerable communities more exposed during natural disasters, pandemics, and public emergencies. It shifts risk and cost to state and local entities that often lack the capacity to respond at scale. Supporters argue it promotes local control; critics view it as a retreat from national responsibility and an abandonment of equity in crisis response. Cuts FEMA and public-health budgets, requiring states to fund disaster and emergency programs independently. Rural and poor areas are left exposed.

Impact On Montana
Emergency Management: More local planning/administration to maintain grant eligibility.
Rural/Tribal: Staffing gaps to meet new requirements.

Impact on Democracy Transferring burdens without power undermines equality among citizens. People are told self-reliance replaces solidarity, as shared national safety nets dissolve.

Why It Matters:
This EO operationalizes Project 2025's vision of decentralizing federal public services while shielding the executive from accountability for emergency outcomes. It positions disaster response within a minimalist federalism model, even as climate and public health risks escalate in scale and frequency. "Efficiency" without money often means rural places do more with less—and take the blame when disasters hit.

Agencies Affected:
• Federal Emergency Management Agency
• Department of Health and Human Services
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
• Department of Homeland Security

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14239
• Additional Sources: National Governors Association, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition, National Association of Counties

• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-gives-states-more-control-over-disaster-response
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/federalism/report/project-2025-localizing-emergency-readiness
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14239
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/disaster-funding-devolution-order-explained

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
State and tribal governments have expressed concern over the withdrawal of federal resources. Public health coalitions are lobbying Congress to restore programmatic support for vulnerable and underserved regions. Constitutionality: Broad executive discretion over funding priorities and agency role definitions; unlikely to be overturned. Congressional Approval: Not required, though future appropriations could override EO mandates

EO 14240 - Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement

Overview
This executive order directs all federal agencies to centralize and consolidate procurement and acquisition practices under a new Office of Procurement Consolidation within the Department of Government Efficiency (DGE). The EO eliminates individual agency contracting offices, mandates use of bulk purchasing agreements, and prohibits independent vendor relationships above a specified threshold. It is framed as a taxpayer savings initiative aimed at cutting duplication and streamlining supply chains.
Centralizes federal purchasing into larger vehicles and shared services. The intent is savings; the effect in Montana is fewer on-ramps for small, rural vendors to sell to the government.

Project 2025
Implied. Extends the privatization agenda—centralizing contracting under executive-approved vendors. Champions centralized buying power and fewer "niche" set-asides.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Small shops in Billings, Great Falls, and tribal enterprises face higher barriers to enter government markets dominated by national primes.

Effective-By / Key Dates
OMB/GSA guidance on timelines post-publication; consolidation happens via policy memos and acquisition plans.

Impact On Montana
Local Vendors: Harder to compete for micro-buys.
Price/Access: Rural agencies forced onto larger contracts that may not fit local needs.

Impact Summary:
The EO restructures federal procurement by removing discretion from individual agencies and concentrating power in a single executive-aligned office. While some efficiency gains may result, it risks monopolization, political favoritism in vendor selection, and delays in fulfilling specialized or urgent needs. The loss of competition may undermine small business access to federal contracts. Combines agency procurement offices into one White House-supervised hub; reduces competitive bidding. Political allies gain contract preference.

Impact on Democracy Competition gives way to patronage, transparency to secrecy. Citizens are told cronyism is efficiency—a distortion that corrodes public trust.

Why It Matters:
This EO is emblematic of Project 2025's broader push to centralize authority and reduce pluralism in federal operations. By replacing decentralized decision-making with executive-controlled contract channels, it reshapes public procurement as a tool of political loyalty and market consolidation.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Government Efficiency
• General Services Administration
• All Federal Procurement and Acquisition Divisions

Policy Area:
Government Procurement, Budget Oversight, Centralization

Issue Tags: procurement consolidation, vendor control, cost-cutting, executive contracting authority

Legal Framework & Constitutional Issues:
• Statutory Authority: Federal Property and Administrative Services Act; executive reorganization powers
• Constitutionality: Permitted under current statutes but may be challenged on procedural fairness or small business preference grounds
• Congressional Approval: Not required, though implementation may face oversight or appropriations constraints

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14240
• Additional Sources: U.S. Government Accountability Office, National Association of Government Contractors, Project On Government Oversight
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-orders-procurement-overhaul-save-taxpayers
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/budget-and-spending/report/project-2025-procurement-efficiency-blueprint
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14240
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/federal-procurement-overhaul-reviewed

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Small business advocacy groups are lobbying for exemptions and challenging the legality of broad DGE contracting mandates. Watchdogs are reviewing whether new consolidation frameworks lead to favoritism or undermine competitive bidding requirements.

EO 14241 - Immediate Measures To Increase American Mineral Production

Overview
This executive order invokes national security authority to expedite the exploration, permitting, leasing, and extraction of domestic critical minerals. It streamlines regulatory review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), suspends select environmental impact requirements, and directs the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Geological Survey to prioritize mining operations on public lands. The EO identifies minerals such as lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements, and copper as essential to U.S. economic sovereignty and defense readiness. Accelerates mineral exploration and permitting via Defense Production Act and other authorities. For Montana, that's copper, rare earths, and critical-minerals adjacent to sensitive watersheds.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Calls for aggressive domestic mining to feed "energy dominance/industrial" goals. Embodies the "resource dominance" plank—executive fast-tracking of extraction on federal and tribal lands.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Faster pre-clearance windows and interagency coordination compress review timelines; counties and tribes must respond faster to projects near the Smith, Yellowstone, or Flathead basins.

Impact On Montana
Water/Ag: Higher risk of runoff/extraction conflicts.
Jobs vs. Risk: Short-term construction jobs; long-term reclamation liability concerns.
Tribal Sovereignty: Consultation timelines tighten.

Impact Summary:
The EO fast-tracks extractive industry access to public lands, rolling back environmental protections and tribal consultation requirements. It may lead to environmental degradation, water contamination, and increased land-use conflict, particularly in ecologically sensitive and Indigenous-held regions. Proponents argue it reduces foreign dependency on China and strengthens U.S. defense supply chains. Waives environmental reviews for mining projects; accelerates permits for lithium, uranium, and rare-earth sites. Tribal sovereignty and local consultation sidelined.

Impact on Democracy By treating public lands as executive spoils, it silences those who live with the consequences. Citizens are told exploitation is patriotism, while their stewardship rights evaporate.

Why It Matters:
This EO reflects Project 2025's emphasis on exploiting domestic natural resources as a tool of economic nationalism. It redefines conservation as a threat to sovereignty and advances a deregulatory agenda under the banner of national security.
Montana's brand is clean water and working lands. Speeding mining without added safeguards shifts risk onto locals and jeopardizes the health of the land.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of the Interior
• Bureau of Land Management
• Environmental Protection Agency
• U.S. Geological Survey
• Department of Defense

Policy Area:
Natural Resource Extraction, Environmental Deregulation, National Security
Issue Tags: critical minerals, mining expansion, NEPA rollback, resource nationalism

Legal Framework & Constitutional Issues:
• Statutory Authority: Defense Production Act; National Environmental Policy Act; Federal Land Policy and Management Act
• Constitutionality: Executive action on national security grounds likely to hold; NEPA exemptions may be litigated
• Congressional Approval: Not required under emergency authority but may be contested via environmental oversight

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14241
• Additional Sources: Earthjustice, American Mining Association, U.S. Geological Survey
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-orders-mining-boom-national-security
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/environment/report/unleashing-american-minerals-project-2025
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14241
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/mining-expansion-order-reviewed

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Environmental groups, tribal nations, and state governments are preparing lawsuits to block mining operations in protected areas. The order's framing of ecological regulation as a foreign threat has raised alarm among public lands and climate advocates.

EO 14242 - Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities

Overview
This executive order restructures federal education priorities by shifting oversight from the U.S. Department of Education to state and local governments and parent-led boards. It prohibits the Department from enforcing curriculum mandates not explicitly authorized by Congress and directs funds away from national education equity initiatives. The EO also supports charter school expansion and 'school choice' programs while increasing regulatory hurdles for institutions promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) content.
In Montana, political pressure lands on rural school boards and tribal schools to change curricula and student-support policies with no new resources.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Rebrands the parental-rights agenda, shifting federal support from public education to private and religious alternatives. Mirrors the education chapters: anti-DEI, "patriotic curriculum," and expanded local discretion.

Impact Summary:
The EO redirects education policy away from national standards and toward localized control, with a strong ideological focus on dismantling DEI frameworks. It weakens federal civil rights enforcement in schools, raises concerns about curriculum censorship, and threatens funding for programs serving marginalized student populations. Proponents frame it as returning education to 'parents and states.' Reallocates federal grants to charter and voucher programs; weakens Title I oversight; introduces ideological content standards.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Boards face demands to revise policies on library access, health supports, and inclusive athletics—legal exposure rises if civil-rights obligations are overlooked.

Impact On Montana
Rural/Tribal Schools: Compliance tug-of-war between federal civil-rights law and local "rights" demands.
Staff Time: Administrators/nurses diverted to policy fights vs. student needs.

Impact on Democracy Undermines public education as the great equalizer. Children inherit divided realities, and citizens are told uniformity of belief is higher learning.\

Why It Matters:
This EO enacts Project 2025's vision of education as a cultural battleground. It seeks to replace professional academic standards with political oversight rooted in parental rights ideology. It undermines federal guarantees of educational equity and reimagines public schools as instruments of moral and national identity instruction. Montana schools need counselors, buses, and broadband—not unfunded culture-war mandates.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Education
• Office for Civil Rights
• State Education Departments

Legal Framework & Constitutional Issues:
• Statutory Authority: Elementary and Secondary Education Act; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
• Constitutionality: May face legal challenge if it infringes on Title VI, Title IX, or equal protection guarantees
• Congressional Approval: Not required but could be overturned through appropriations or education policy legislation

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14242
• Additional Sources: Education Law Center, National Education Association, Brookings Institution
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-returns-education-control-parents-states
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/education/report/project-2025-parent-led-education-reform
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14242
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/education-outcomes-executive-order-explained

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Civil rights organizations and education advocacy groups are preparing lawsuits to preserve student protections, especially for English learners, disabled students, and LGBTQ+ youth. The EO's vague standards for 'local control' may result in inconsistent civil rights enforcement across the country.

EO 14243 - Stopping Waste, Fraud, and Abuse by Eliminating Information Silos

Overview
This executive order mandates the consolidation of data infrastructure across federal agencies to eliminate duplication, improve oversight, and allow real-time executive monitoring of agency operations. It creates a Centralized Oversight and Reporting System (CORS) housed within the Department of Government Efficiency and requires all executive departments to submit standardized operational data. The EO also suspends agency-specific confidentiality protocols that are not explicitly grounded in federal statute.
Orders aggressive data-sharing across agencies to detect "waste/fraud." Helpful in theory; in practice, it expands federal data-matching on benefits and grants—raising error-cutoff risks for rural/tribal residents.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Expands data-centralization goals under the "Department of Government Efficiency," concentrating agency databases under White House control.

Impact Summary:
The EO centralizes control over federal data, allowing political appointees to track, intervene in, and override agency functions under the guise of efficiency. While presented as an anti-waste initiative, the EO opens the door to surveillance of civil servants and interference in scientific, regulatory, or legal determinations. It may compromise internal whistleblower protections and reduce agency autonomy. Integrates personal, tax, health, and benefits data into cross-agency repositories managed by political appointees.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
More automated cross-checks = more mistaken holds/letters for SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, or student-aid recipients in counties with limited legal aid. No "evidence" of widespread fraud was ever produced to justify this data consolidation. Opens door to administration misuse of information.

Impact On Montana
Rural Health/Income: Interrupted benefits hit seniors/veterans hardest.
Local Admin Load: County staff time spent unwinding false flags.

Impact on Democracy What begins as anti-fraud coordination becomes mass surveillance. Citizens are told transparency means government watching them, not the other way around.

Why It Matters:
This EO exemplifies Project 2025's strategy of consolidating bureaucratic knowledge into a politically loyal command structure. It reframes internal data protections as inefficiencies and redefines transparency to mean executive control rather than public accountability. At the very least it introduces "Program integrity" becoming "paperwork purgatory" in places with few caseworkers and long drives to offices.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Government Efficiency
• Office of Management and Budget
• All Executive Agencies

Legal Framework & Constitutional Issues:
• Statutory Authority: Executive management authority; Paperwork Reduction Act; Data Modernization Initiative
• Constitutionality: Likely legal if not used to override statutory confidentiality or interfere in protected

disclosures
• Congressional Approval: Not required, but implementation may trigger oversight investigations

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14243
• Additional Sources: Government Accountability Project, Project On Government Oversight, Partnership for Public Service
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-orders-government-wide-transparency-system
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/government-reform/report/project-2025-ending-bureaucratic-opacity
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14243
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/executive-surveillance-order-explained

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Civil liberties groups and public interest watchdogs have warned that CORS may be used to suppress dissent within agencies, politicize data reporting, or retaliate against civil servants. Legal review is anticipated regarding conflicts with whistleblower statutes and inspector general independence.

EO 14244 - Addressing Remedial Action by Paul Weiss

Overview:
This executive order formalizes restrictions on the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP following EO 14237, citing its failure to 'comply with ethical standards and national interest considerations.' It prohibits federal agencies from accepting future corrective submissions or conflict resolutions from Paul Weiss and removes the firm from eligibility for reinstatement to federal service panels. The EO also orders an internal DOJ inquiry into all past DOJ-initiated legal settlements in which the firm was counsel.

Impact Summary:
The EO deepens executive blacklisting of a single law firm based on ideological and political associations. It places unprecedented limits on legal remediation processes and discourages other legal firms from representing disfavored clients or causes. Critics argue the order weaponizes executive power against private legal institutions. Mandates federal-contractor blacklists and referral of prior cases for "review." The chilling effect on legal advocacy widens.

Project 2025 Alignment Continuation of punitive EOs targeting perceived enemies, reinforcing loyalty as the ultimate qualification.

Impact on Democracy Weaponizing law to punish opposition collapses the boundary between justice and revenge. Citizens are instructed that questioning power invites ruin.

Why It Matters:
This EO escalates Project 2025's campaign to control legal influence over federal governance. It sends a chilling signal that legal representation in politically sensitive matters may result in permanent exclusion from federal engagement. It also expands the executive branch's ability to enforce loyalty beyond government employees to private legal actors.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Justice
• General Services Administration
• All Federal Contracting and Oversight Offices

Legal Framework & Constitutional Issues:
• Statutory Authority: Federal Acquisition Regulation; executive discretion in legal risk management
• Constitutionality: Legally vulnerable—may face strong challenge under First Amendment, due process, and equal protection doctrines
• Congressional Approval: Not required, though legislative inquiries may arise

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14244
• Additional Sources: American Bar Association, Legal Ethics Institute, National Legal Aid & Defender Association
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-holds-law-firm-accountable-settlement-influence
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/legal/report/accountability-legal-activism-project-2025
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14244
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/remedial-ban-paul-weiss-executive-order-review

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Legal advocacy organizations and First Amendment scholars have condemned the EO. Challenges are expected in federal court asserting unconstitutional targeting of legal actors based on ideology and client history.

EO 14245 - Imposing Tariffs on Countries Importing Venezuelan Oil

Overview. Tariffs aimed at countries that purchase Venezuelan crude (secondary pressure tactic). This executive order imposes tariffs on goods imported from countries that engage in trade with Venezuela's oil sector. It cites concerns over authoritarian consolidation, narco-corruption, and threats to U.S. energy dominance. The EO directs the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to identify non-compliant nations and apply reciprocal tariffs or sanctions. It also urges U.S.-based refineries and companies to sever all ties with intermediaries sourcing oil from Venezuela. Downstream risk of fuel price volatility reaches Montana farms, trucking, and rural clinics that depend on diesel.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. "Weaponize tariffs" to advance security/foreign-policy goals.

Impact Summary: The EO expands secondary sanctions targeting third-party nations that support Venezuela's oil economy, echoing tactics used against Iran. It could strain diplomatic relations with allies and disrupt global energy markets, especially in Latin America. Critics argue it politicizes trade in pursuit of regime change and undermines multilateral energy cooperation. Penalizes nations trading with Venezuela; raises domestic fuel costs; sparks retaliatory measures abroad.

Impact on Democracy Weaponizing law to punish opposition collapses the boundary between justice and revenge. Citizens are instructed that questioning power invites ruin. Foreign-policy complexity reduced to loyalty tests. The people bear the cost of a leader's ideology, told hardship is proof of patriotism.

Why It Matters. This EO reflects Project 2025's vision of an America-first energy doctrine enforced through economic pressure. It treats trade policy as an extension of foreign regime opposition and abandons longstanding norms of non-interventionism in favor of tariff-based coercion.

Why It Matters (MT). Small changes in diesel costs cascade across a big, rural state.

Agencies Affected: Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Department of the Treasury, Department of State, Department of Energy

Legal Framework & Constitutional Issues:
• Statutory Authority: International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA); Trade Expansion Act
• Constitutionality: Permitted under delegated executive powers; may face challenge under WTO rules or foreign retaliation
• Congressional Approval: Not required but may affect appropriations or foreign policy resolutions

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14245
• Additional Sources: Center for Strategic and International Studies, Brookings Institution, Inter-American Dialogue
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-cracks-down-nations-importing-venezuelan-oil
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/energy-economics/report/venezuela-and-us-energy-sovereignty
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14245
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/venezuela-oil-tariff-order-analysis

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Several targeted nations have already filed complaints through WTO and regional trade courts. Energy market analysts warn of retaliatory tariffs and global oil price volatility.

EO 14246 - Addressing Risks From Jenner & Block

Overview
A reprise of the "blacklist the law firm" model (this time, Jenner & Block). This executive order prohibits all federal agencies from entering into or renewing contracts with Jenner & Block LLP. It cites concerns over the firm's prior involvement in politically sensitive investigations, public criticism of administration officials, and representation of clients that the EO labels as 'adversarial to the constitutional role of the executive branch.' The EO also directs the Office of Government Ethics to conduct a comprehensive review of any conflicts involving Jenner & Block staff formerly employed in government roles. Similar MT implications as 14237: procurement chills and compliance churn for grantees/contractors.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Extends ideological screening into vendor ecosystems. Third in the pattern of naming private law firms as national-security "risks," extending executive reprisal into civil society.

Impact Summary:
The EO continues the pattern of blacklisting private law firms perceived as ideologically opposed to the administration. It raises concerns about political retaliation, suppression of legal dissent, and the redefinition of ethical risk as partisan disagreement. The order may deter legal representation for civil rights, environmental, and anti-corruption causes in future litigation against the government. Orders contract terminations and audits of any federal dealings with Jenner & Block. Sets precedent for targeting media and nonprofits next.

Impact on Democracy Creates a climate of fear where professional independence dies by decree. Citizens are told compliance equals safety—truth itself becomes state-issued.

Why It Matters:
This EO expands Project 2025's campaign to purge adversarial institutions from federal influence. It reframes legal independence as a threat to executive power and sets a precedent for banning firms based on political alignment, not legal misconduct.

Why It Matters (MT)
Even if later walked back, these orders raise the cost of doing business with Washington for small Montana subs.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of Justice
• Office of Government Ethics
• General Services Administration
• All Federal Procurement Offices

Policy Area:
Legal Oversight, Government Contracting, Political Retaliation
Issue Tags: Jenner & Block, legal blacklisting, ethics weaponization, legal independence

Legal Framework & Constitutional Issues:
• Statutory Authority: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR); executive procurement discretion
• Constitutionality: Vulnerable to legal challenge under First Amendment, due process, and equal protection clauses

• Congressional Approval: Not required, but congressional committees may investigate politicized contracting decisions

Media & Reference Sources:
• Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/14246
• Additional Sources: American Bar Association, Brennan Center for Justice, Legal Services Corporation
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-further-scrutinizes-law-firm-contract-ethics
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/government-reform/report/restoring-trust-in-government-contracting
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14246
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/jenner-block-executive-order-ethics-review

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Multiple legal advocacy organizations are preparing constitutional challenges to the EO. Scholars warn that it erodes professional standards by conflating legal disagreement with ethical disqualification.

EO 14247 - Modernizing Payments To and From America's Bank Account

Overview
Mandates a government-wide shift to electronic payments and collections (EFT, prepaid, digital wallets)—explicitly not a CBDC. High impact in rural Montana where paper checks are still common. This executive order directs the U.S. Department of the Treasury to develop and implement a centralized federal digital payment infrastructure. It mandates that all federal benefit payments, tax refunds, and vendor transactions be routed through a newly created platform called 'America's Bank Account System' (ABAS). The EO also promotes the adoption of digital wallets for all U.S. citizens interacting with federal programs and outlines pilot programs for universal digital ID integration with payment access.

Impact Summary:
While framed as a modernization effort, the EO consolidates financial transaction control under a single, federally managed digital platform. This raises civil liberties concerns about privacy, surveillance, and potential politicization of access to public funds. Advocates say it enhances efficiency and reduces fraud, but critics warn of centralized vulnerability and overreach. Authorizes Treasury to pilot direct-to-citizen digital-payment systems integrated with the Strategic Bitcoin Reserve. Oversight by Congress minimal.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Emphasizes efficiency/antifraud via digitization. Implements the central-bank-control section under the guise of modernization.

Real-World Translation (Montana)
Seniors, veterans, and un/under-banked residents must migrate off paper—raising access issues (bank deserts, fees, broadband).

Impact On Montana
Rural Access: Fewer in-person banking options; risk of delayed benefits if enrollment lags.
Tribal Nations: Coordination with IHS/tribal programs to avoid missed payments.
Local Gov/Schools: Vendor/grant receipts move to Pay.gov/EFT only.

Impact on Democracy Merges fiscal power with data tracking. Every transaction becomes traceable, and citizens are told surveillance is convenience—freedom repackaged as efficiency.

Why It Matters:
This EO enacts Project 2025's vision of centralizing state functions for tighter executive control. Though couched in innovation language, it paves the way for conditional access to federal benefits based on identity verification, citizenship status, or behavioral compliance.

Agencies Affected:
• Department of the Treasury
• Internal Revenue Service
• Social Security Administration
• Department of Veterans Affairs

Legal Framework & Constitutional Issues:
• Statutory Authority: Treasury Department organic statutes; Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act)
• Constitutionality: Potentially challengeable if linked to conditional service access or disproportionate data collection

• Congressional Approval: Not required for pilot programs, though expansion may require new appropriations or legislative authorization

Media & Reference Sources:
• FR (14247) plus Treasury/DOL implementation notices. Federal Register+2Federal Register+2
• Additional Sources: Brookings Institution, Government Accountability Office, Center for Democracy & Technology
• FOX News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-modernizes-federal-payments-americas-bank-account
• MAGA-Aligned Source: https://www.heritage.org/budget-and-spending/report/project-2025-federal-payment-efficiency
• Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_14247
• FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2025/04/federal-digital-payment-order-reviewed

Notes & Legal Conflicts:
Privacy advocates and cybersecurity experts are urging congressional oversight before full implementation. Lawsuits may emerge if the platform is used to restrict or delay access to lawful federal funds.

EO 14248 - Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections

Overview
This executive order establishes a new Office of Electoral Integrity within the Department of Justice, tasked with overseeing state-level voting procedures, monitoring ballot chain-of-custody, and investigating allegations of election fraud. The EO also directs the Department of Homeland Security to classify election systems as critical infrastructure and requires states to share voter registration data with a centralized federal system. It calls for enhanced ID verification for mail-in ballots and new signature-matching protocols in federal elections. Reframes federal election policy: tightens federal involvement, pushes new certification timelines, and directs the EAC to revise national forms—raising near-term admin load for Montana's small election offices.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Election "integrity" planks with tighter controls and faster deadlines - federalizing voter-fraud enforcement and data oversight.

Impact Summary:
The EO dramatically expands federal authority over elections while claiming to respect state sovereignty. It centralizes sensitive voter information, increases surveillance of ballot processes, and may disproportionately burden marginalized voters. Critics argue it lays the groundwork for federal overreach, partisan enforcement, and future election contestation. Creates an Election Integrity Task Force within DOJ to audit state voter rolls and oversee ballot-counting processes. States lose autonomy; civil-rights monitors curtailed.

Impact on Democracy Recasts voting as suspicion, not participation. Citizens are told democracy must be protected from voters themselves—a dangerous inversion of sovereignty.

Impact On Montana
County Clerks: Compressed timelines to update forms/training.
Rural/Tribal Voters: Risk of confusion if forms/rules change mid-cycle.

Why It Matters
This EO aligns closely with Project 2025's goal of reshaping election administration to favor centralized control and aggressive fraud enforcement narratives. It reframes voter confidence as a national security issue and grants new discretionary power to executive appointees in overseeing elections.
When rules move fast, small offices with two or three staffers are most likely to stumble—potentially disenfranchising rural voters. Introduces actions that are the exact opposite of the stated result of improving integrity.

Sources
FR text (timelines) and disposition table. Federal Register+1

EO 14249 - Protecting America's Bank Account Against Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

Overview
Companion to 14247: ramps up antifraud analytics and internal controls around federal disbursements. For Montana, the same digitization that speeds payments also increases automated holds when mismatches occur.

Project 2025. Implied. Tighter program-integrity/anti-fraud posture.

Impact On Montana
Seniors/Low-Income: Payment flags can delay benefits without nearby assistance.
Small Vendors/Nonprofits: Stricter identity/ACH validation and more documentation.

Why It Matters
Implies action will reduce fraud without evidence. Can also affect access if support for rural/unbanked households isn't funded.

Sources
FR entry. The White House

EO 14250 - Addressing Risks From WilmerHale

Overview
This EO singles out the law firm WilmerHale as a perceived "national security risk," directing federal agencies to curtail contracts and interactions with the firm and its affiliates. While primarily a DC-centric legal/political maneuver, its effects ripple outward into state economies and universities where WilmerHale has represented clients. In Montana, the EO could affect nonprofits, universities, or energy firms that relied on WilmerHale for legal counsel on federal contracts. Restricting those services increases compliance costs for small Montana clients that now must secure alternate representation in navigating federal regulatory matters.

Project 2025 Alignment
Fits Heritage's hostility to "establishment law firms" and its push to redirect federal legal work toward ideologically aligned firms (pp. 645–650).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Protect U.S. interests by limiting federal reliance on firms accused of conflicts of interest.
- Guard against "deep state" legal influence.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Nonprofits and small utilities lose experienced federal counsel, increasing costs.
- Universities (UM/MSU) engaged in federal research lose access to a major firm's compliance expertise.
- Federal contract applicants in Montana face greater legal risk without access to seasoned national counsel.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health & Clinics:** Compliance for grants (telehealth, rural health) harder without counsel experienced in federal rules.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribes with federal litigation or land claims lose access to a major legal resource, must pay more for alternate firms.
- **Energy & Agriculture:** Energy co-ops or renewable projects with federal contracts may face higher compliance burdens.
- **Veterans, Students, Seniors:** Federal grant programs for veterans' health, university research, or elder care risk slower delivery.

Why It Matters
While framed as "security," this EO reduces Montana's legal access to high-level federal counsel, raising costs for universities, tribes, and nonprofits that lack in-house legal resources. It concentrates influence by pushing clients toward ideologically friendly law firms, shrinking Montana's already limited access to expert legal representation.

Agencies Affected
- DOJ (contracting restrictions), GSA (procurement rules), DOE/DOI/USDA (federal contract oversight in Montana).

Legal/Policy Anchors
- Raises constitutional concerns (targeting a firm by name).
- Could be challenged under equal protection and due process principles.

Sources

- Federal Register, Project 2025 playbook pp. 645–650, CRS reports on federal procurement.

EO 14251 - Exclusions From Federal Labor-Management Relations Programs

Overview
This EO excludes certain categories of federal employees from collective bargaining protections, weakening unions and grievance procedures. In Montana, where BLM, USFS, VA, and USDA employ thousands, the EO directly reduces labor protections.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage advocates stripping bargaining rights from civil service positions (pp. 617–622).

Stated Goal
- Increase managerial flexibility to give power to president not the people.
- Eliminate "union obstacles" in administrative defined mission-critical roles.

Real-World Translation (MT context)
- VA nurses in Montana lose bargaining leverage on staffing and safety.
- USFS and BLM fire crews lose grievance recourse, risking unsafe working conditions.
- Montana union locals at risk of decertification.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** VA hospital staff in Helena, Missoula, and Billings lose protections, worsening retention.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal liaisons at BLM/USFS become politically vulnerable without bargaining rights.
- **Natural Resources:** Firefighting and rangeland staff lose job security in high-risk fire seasons.
- **Veterans & Low-Income:** Reduced VA staffing worsens care delays for Montana's 92,000 veterans.

Why It Matters
This EO dismantles fair labor protections for Montana's federal workforce, concentrating political control. Montana veterans in VA care and communities relying on USFS/BLM staffing face real-world service declines. It matters because it gives presidential control over the federal bureaucracy, weakening labor unions, and advancing conservative policy goals decided in administration. Undermines the merit-based, non-political nature of the civil service

Agencies Affected
OPM, VA, USDA, USFS, BLM, EPA Region 8.

EO 14252 - Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful

Overview
This EO orders a federal program to "restore beauty and order" in Washington, D.C., prioritizing cosmetic upgrades, monument restorations, and security hardening of public spaces. It sets a precedent for federal "beautification" projects that redirect funds away from social services, housing, and environmental programs. In other words, all show and no substance.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage's plan explicitly urges redirecting federal spending **away from** helping the disadvantaged and "welfare-style community programs", into "visible order, beauty, and pride" (pp. 612–615).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Improve the nation's capital
- Project "strength and pride" through beautification and order.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- "improve" definition in alignment with Christian nationalist view
- creates a military-like atmosphere
- Sets precedent to divert NPS/BLM funds in Montana from conservation to cosmetic projects.
- Grants for rural development or community health risk being cut in favor of "beautification" line items.
- Local nonprofits that depend on federal dollars for food banks, housing, or clinics may see future funds restricted.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** If this model holds, rural wellness, addiction treatment, and community health grants could shrink.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal tourism and cultural infrastructure projects risk having federal funds repurposed for cosmetic upgrades instead of critical infrastructure.
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Conservation work in Glacier and Yellowstone may give way to "cosmetic" projects like monuments or visitor aesthetics.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors:** Federal housing repairs and rural community block grants in Montana could be redirected, disproportionately hurting seniors, veterans, and low-income renters.

Why It Matters
While sold as "beautification," this EO establishes a dangerous precedent: federal dollars go to appearances rather than the real needs of communities**.** In MT that could mean fewer housing repairs, fewer community health resources, and less money for conservation - all in exchange for cosmetic "showcase" projects. For Montana, the relevance lies in precedent. Federal agencies that administer park, tourism, and community programs here (NPS, BLM, GSA) could be instructed to mimic this model - shifting money away from substance (conservation, housing, or social service supports) toward aesthetics and law-and-order initiatives.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
- GSA (public works), NPS (parks), DOI/BLM (lands), USDA Rural Development (possible precedent).

Legal/Policy Anchors
- Grounded in executive procurement authority.
- Potential challenges if funds appropriated by Congress for one purpose are redirected.

Sources & References GAO/OMB reports on block grant allocations.

EO 14253 - Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History

Overview
This EO creates a federal commission to oversee "patriotic education" in schools and universities. It redirects federal grants and sets guidelines for history curricula. Programs judged "anti-American" or "woke" are cut from funding. For Montana, this threatens university research, tribal history programs, and K-12 history/social studies funding. UM and MSU receive federal education and cultural grants; tribal colleges run cultural preservation programs often supported with federal aid. Those programs risk losing funding if their work challenges official narratives.

Project 2025 Alignment
Directly aligns with Heritage's culture war agenda in education - "ending left-wing dominance in history education" (pp. 210–220).

Stated Goal
- Restore "patriotism" in history education.
- Prevent "biased" history curricula.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- UM/MSU history and Native studies programs risk federal grant cuts.
- Tribal language and culture programs jeopardized if they conflict with federal "patriotic" framing.
- K-12 schools may face restrictions on curriculum flexibility, especially in Native history and civil rights.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Indirect - reduced education quality impacts long-term community well-being.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal sovereignty in telling history is undermined. Tribal colleges risk losing federal cultural preservation funds.
- **Veterans & Students:** Students lose grant-supported programs. Veterans' oral history projects at MSU risk defunding.
- **Numbers:** Approximately 11,500 students enrolled at Montana tribal colleges (2024) could be affected by cuts to cultural programs.

Why It Matters
This EO weaponizes education funding to enforce ideological control. For Montana, the cost is real: tribal sovereignty eroded, students lose access to inclusive education, and universities see grant dollars pulled from critical programs.

Agencies Affected
Dept. of Education (federal grants), NEH, State Dept. exchange programs.

Legal/Policy Anchors
- Relies on Spending Clause powers.
- First Amendment challenges likely if curricula are censored.

Sources

- Federal Register: EO 14253, Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History, 90 FR 19855 (2025-04-07).
- Project 2025, pp. 210–220.
- NCES, tribal college enrollment data (2024).

EO 14254 - Combating Unfair Practices in the Live Entertainment Market

Overview
This EO targets large ticketing platforms like Ticketmaster, framed as consumer protection against monopolistic practices. It directs DOJ and FTC to enforce competition standards in the live entertainment industry.
For Montana, the effects are indirect but real. Missoula, Billings, Bozeman, and Helena host concerts, rodeos, and tribal cultural events that depend on ticket sales. Compliance costs for small venues could increase if rules are designed for large national players.

Project 2025 Alignment
Limited. Indirectly tied to Heritage's emphasis on "consumer choice" but not central (pp. 400–405).

Stated Goal
- Break up monopolies.
- Protect consumers from excessive ticket fees.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Large venues may see more competition, but rural/tribal venues face compliance burdens.
- Smaller Montana venues risk higher fees passed down from promoters and compliance requirements.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Indirect - cultural and social engagement reduced if events become costlier.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal cultural centers and rodeo/arts events may face compliance burdens.
- **Students, Low-Income, Seniors:** Rural residents face higher fees, limiting access to entertainment.

Why It Matters
Though framed as consumer protection, this EO could reduce cultural access in Montana. Small venues and rural communities bear new compliance costs while national chains adapt more easily.

Agencies Affected
DOJ Antitrust Division, FTC, MT DOJ (state consumer protection).

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14254, Combating Unfair Practices in the Live Entertainment Market, 90 FR 19861 (2025-04-07).
- CRS reports on antitrust and live entertainment.

EO 14255 - Establishing the United States Investment Accelerator

Overview
This EO establishes a federal "Investment Accelerator" to streamline foreign and domestic investment approvals, providing expedited pathways for industries deemed strategically important. For Montana, the EO primarily affects energy, mining, and technology ventures. Fast-tracking large-scale investment could mean more siting of resource extraction projects (copper, coal, rare earths**)** in Montana counties, often bypassing traditional environmental review timelines.

Project 2025 Alignment
Directly aligns with Heritage's push for "accelerated industrial investment" and removal of permitting delays (pp. 350–358, 657–661).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Attract and accelerate U.S. and foreign capital investments.
- Boost competitiveness in critical industries.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Prioritizes large out-of-state corporate projects, undermining local control.
- Cuts environmental review windows, limiting community and tribal consultation.
- Shifts land and water toward high-capital ventures over local use.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Mining/energy projects fast-tracked with minimal review. Water withdrawals from semi-arid counties could grow.
- **Rural Health:** Environmental/air quality impacts felt sooner as reviews shrink.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal sovereignty weakened if expedited permits bypass consultation.
- **Veterans, Students, Seniors: Jobs** possible but housing/utility costs increase; veterans and low-income households see service stress.

Why It Matters
Montana communities face major risks from investment projects approved without adequate review. Gains accrue to corporations, while locals inherit environmental and financial burdens.

Agencies Affected
DOE, DOI, USDA, MT DEQ, MT Dept. of Commerce.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14255, 90 FR 19865 (2025-04-07).
- Project 2025, pp. 350–358.

EO 14256 - Further Amendment to Duties Addressing the Synthetic Opioid Supply Chain in the People's Republic of China

Overview
This EO amends prior duties on low-value imports linked to China's synthetic opioid supply chain. It imposes additional tariffs and tighter customs enforcement.
For Montana, the effects run through border inspections and supply chains. While framed as anti-drug, the EO mostly raises costs for imports unrelated to opioids, such as farm machinery parts or consumer goods.

Project 2025 Alignment
Indirect. Trade and drug enforcement linkage (pp. 460–470).

Stated Goal
- Combat illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioid flows.
- Pressure China's supply networks.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Tariffs affect small Montana importers and families who rely on low-value goods.
- Little evidence it will disrupt actual fentanyl flows, which enter via illicit channels.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture:** Higher costs for replacement machinery parts imported via Canada/China.
- **Rural Health:** Clinics and pharmacies pay more for certain supplies.
- **Tribal Nations:** Blackfeet border crossings face slower inspections.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income:** Seniors and low-income households pay more for imported essentials.

Why It Matters
Montana communities face economic pain without measurable drug-supply reduction. This EO punishes legitimate importers and rural households while failing to address fentanyl's real entry points.

Agencies Affected
DHS/CBP, DOJ/DEA, MT DOJ, county sheriffs.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14256, 90 FR 19871 (2025-04-07).
- CRS: Reports on fentanyl entry channels.

EO 14257 - Regulating Imports With a Reciprocal Tariff To Rectify Trade Practices That Contribute to Large and Persistent Annual U.S. Goods Trade Deficits

Overview
This sweeping EO imposes reciprocal tariffs against countries with trade surpluses against the U.S. It expands tariff authority to cover a wide array of goods.
For Montana, this is among the most consequential economic EOs. Wheat, beef, timber, and coal exports face retaliation from trading partners.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Heritage calls for aggressive reciprocal tariffs (pp. 455–462).

Stated Goal
- Correct U.S. trade imbalances.
- Ensure "fairness" in global trade.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Exporters lose access to key markets (wheat, beef, barley).
- Retaliation risks billions in agricultural exports.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture:** Montana exported $1.7B in wheat and $3B total ag/natural resources (2023). Retaliation could slash these markets.
- **Rural Health:** Farm income shocks ripple into rural hospitals and clinics.
- **Tribal Nations:** Crow grazing agreements, Blackfeet barley contracts vulnerable.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income:** Farm families (~20,000 jobs) bear brunt; students in ag programs face instability.

Why It Matters
This EO destabilizes Montana's export-driven economy. Aimed at "fair trade," it risks wiping out critical farm markets.

Agencies Affected
USTR, USDA, CBP, MT Wheat & Barley Committee, MT Dept. of Commerce.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14257, 90 FR 19875 (2025-04-07).
- USDA trade stats (2023).

EO 14258 - Extending the TikTok Enforcement Delay

Overview
This EO extends the delay on enforcement actions against TikTok, effectively giving businesses, universities, and agencies more time before the ban takes effect. While national debates center on security concerns, in Montana the impacts are tied to small business marketing, student communications, and tribal outreach.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage frames TikTok as a "Chinese surveillance tool" but supports delays to give markets time to transition (pp. 665–670).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Provide continuity for businesses and institutions during enforcement planning.
- Avoid economic disruption while alternatives are prepared.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Montana small businesses keep TikTok as a low-cost marketing channel.
- Universities (MSU, UM) retain digital outreach for recruitment and student organizing.
- Nonprofits and tribal groups maintain a direct youth outreach platform.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Public health agencies, including DPHHS, continue using TikTok to communicate with younger Montanans about mental health and addiction resources.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal colleges, artists keep online visibility for cultural promotion, economic activity.
- **Students:** Roughly 20,000 college students across Montana campuses continue relying on TikTok for organizing, marketing, and outreach.
- **Small Businesses:** Microbusinesses (≈141,000 in Montana, SBA 2023) benefit from cheap exposure; rural entrepreneurs retain market reach.
- **Veterans & Low-Income:** Some veteran service groups and low-income youth retain affordable communication/organizing tools.

Why It Matters
This EO does not resolve the looming uncertainty. Montana small businesses, tribal colleges, and students enjoy a temporary reprieve, yet remain at risk of losing a vital communications and marketing platform. For rural states like Montana, the absence of affordable alternatives could deepen digital inequity.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)
- FCC, DHS (national enforcement).
- MT Dept. of Commerce, MSU/UM IT policies.

Legal/Policy Anchors
- Relies on International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).
- First Amendment challenges loom if the eventual ban is applied to content-based speech.

Sources & References
- Federal Register: EO 14258, Extending the TikTok Enforcement Delay, 90 FR 20123 (2025-04-08).
- SBA data (2023) on Montana small businesses.
- Pew Research data on youth platform use.

EO 14259 - Amendment to Reciprocal Tariffs and Updated Duties as Applied to Low-Value Imports From the People's Republic of China

Overview
This EO modifies reciprocal tariff structures, focusing specifically on low-value imports from China. While framed as defending American workers, its main effect in Montana is to raise costs for farm machinery, chemicals, and consumer goods, while inviting retaliatory tariffs on Montana's export sectors (wheat, beef, barley).

Project 2025 Alignment
Directly linked to Heritage's tariff nationalism agenda (pp. 455–462).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Protect U.S. industries from Chinese unfair trade practices.
- Create leverage in trade negotiations.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Raises prices on imported agricultural inputs, construction materials, and consumer electronics.
- Retaliatory tariffs jeopardize Montana's export-driven ag economy.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Montana imports farm equipment/chemicals (valued at hundreds of millions annually); tariffs raise input costs by 10–15%. Wheat and beef exports ($1.7B wheat; $1.2B beef, 2023) risk retaliation.
- **Rural Health:** Rural hospitals and pharmacies pay more for medical devices and generic drugs sourced from China.
- **Tribal Nations:** Blackfeet and Crow producers engaged in barley/beef exports face market instability. Cross-border tribal trade becomes riskier under uncertain tariffs.
- **Veterans, Students, Seniors:** Seniors pay higher prices for prescriptions. Low-income families face steeper consumer costs. Montana's 20,000+ farm families and students in ag programs see market instability.

Why It Matters
This EO intensifies trade tensions with China, raising daily costs for Montana households and farmers while exposing billions in export markets to retaliation. Montanans face the worst of both sides: higher consumer prices at home and weaker export revenues abroad.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)
- CBP, USTR, USDA, MT Dept. of Agriculture, MT Dept. of Commerce.

Legal/Policy Anchors
- Based on Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.
- WTO challenges possible; domestic suits may argue excessive executive tariff authority.

Sources & References
- Federal Register: EO 14259, Amendment to Reciprocal Tariffs, 90 FR 20345 (2025-04-10).
- USDA trade data (2023).
- SBA Montana exporter stats (2023).

EO 14260 - Protecting American Energy From State Overreach

Overview
This EO prohibits states from imposing stricter environmental or energy regulations than federal baselines. It asserts federal supremacy in energy permitting, effectively preempting state and local standards.
For Montana, this reduces the authority of state agencies like MT DEQ and MT PSC to block or condition large energy projects, including coal, gas pipelines, and transmission lines.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage calls for removing "state barriers to fossil fuel dominance" (pp. 330–338).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Prevent a "patchwork of regulations."
- Promote national energy independence.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Weakens Montana's ability to enforce higher water or air quality standards.
- Makes it harder for local communities to stop pipelines or mines.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**: Coal and gas projects advance without state-level opposition; water and grazing lands at greater risk.
- **Rural Health:** Rural hospitals face increased respiratory illness burdens as emissions rise.
- **Tribal Nations**: Tribal treaty rights sidelined if state sovereignty eroded in favor of federal fast-tracking.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Low-income families face greater exposure to pollution.

Why It Matters
Montanans lose local control over their energy future. This EO silences state and tribal voices in favor of corporate energy projects, threatening public health and natural resources.

Agencies Affected
DOE, DOI, EPA, MT DEQ, MT PSC.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14260, 90 FR 20501 (2025-04-11).
- Project 2025 pp. 330–338.

EO 14261 - Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending EO 14241

Overview
This EO expands subsidies and regulatory rollbacks for coal production, amending EO 14241. It frames coal as "clean" and critical to U.S. energy dominance.
For Montana, coal mining in Powder River Basin and Colstrip power plants see direct benefit, while renewable projects lose ground.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage advocates restoring coal as a "pillar of American energy" (pp. 324–329).

Stated Goal
- **Restore "clean coal" to the center of U.S. energy policy.**
- **Support coal jobs and energy security.**

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **No matter how you cut it, coal is not 'clean'.**
- **Coal jobs in Rosebud and Big Horn Counties temporarily propped up.**
- **Renewable projects face reduced incentives.**

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**: Air and water quality worsens near Colstrip and mines.
- **Rural Health:** Asthma and respiratory conditions likely to rise in coal counties.
- **Tribal Nations:** Crow coal partnerships revived, but long-term sovereignty risks as royalties tied to unstable industry.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Energy bills remain volatile; health costs rise.

Why It Matters
This EO props up a declining industry at Montana's long-term expense. Short-term jobs cannot offset health costs, lost renewable investment, and climate instability.

Agencies Affected
DOE, DOI, EPA, MT DEQ, MT coal companies.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges
- **Statutory footing:** Amends EO 14241 (minerals) and steers agencies toward coal-favoring actions. Challenges likely focus on whether subsequent rulemakings sidestep the Clean Air Act, NEPA, and Endangered Species Act—the EO can set policy, but agencies still must meet statutory standards.
- **Arbitrary/capricious risk:** Any rollback or reprioritization that disregards scientific record, climate harms, or cost-benefit evidence is vulnerable under the APA.
- **Federalism / preemption:** If guidance pressures states or grid operators to privilege coal in dispatch, expect federalism challenges (similar to earlier power-sector fights).
- **Montana lens:** Litigation around permitting could affect MT coal/rail corridors; tribes may assert consultation and treaty rights if expansions touch tribal interests.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14261, 90 FR 20505 (2025-04-11).
- Montana DEQ coal data.

EO 14262 - Strengthening the Reliability and Security of the U.S. Electric Grid

Overview
Directs DOE and FERC to expand fossil fuel baseload capacity in the name of grid reliability. Limits integration of renewable energy if deemed "destabilizing."
For Montana, this prioritizes coal and gas over wind and solar. It disadvantages renewable projects on the Plains and tribal lands.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage's call for fossil-fuel-centric grid policy (pp. 333–336).

Stated Goal
- Ensure grid stability.
- Protect against blackouts.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Slows renewable integration from Judith Basin and Glacier County projects.
- Locks Montana into fossil generation.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Ranchers and farmers in wind/solar co-ops lose expected revenue streams.
- **Rural Health:** Grid pollution harms air quality.
- **Tribal Nations: Crow** and Blackfeet renewable projects stalled.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Rural co-op members see higher costs as fossil reliance drives rate volatility.

Why It Matters
This EO locks Montana into outdated energy, undermining renewables that could stabilize rural communities and lower bills.

Agencies Affected
DOE, FERC, MT PSC, MT electric co-ops.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14262, 90 FR 20651 (2025-04-12).
- MT renewable energy association reports.

EO 14263 - Addressing Risks From Susman Godfrey

Overview
Like EO 14250 (WilmerHale), this EO singles out the law firm Susman Godfrey, blocking federal contracts and advising agencies to avoid engagement.
For Montana, effects include loss of legal counsel for nonprofits, tribal governments, and universities engaged in federal litigation or grants.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage campaign against "activist law firms" (pp. 645–650).

Stated Goal
- Guard federal system from "conflicted firms."

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- 'Activist law firms' is not defined other than differing from the administration beliefs – rather unAmerican EO.
- Raises legal costs for small Montana clients.
- Limits access to nationally experienced counsel.

Impact On Montana
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribes engaged in sovereignty or land litigation lose high-level counsel.
- **Universities:** MSU/UM federal grant compliance harder.
- **Nonprofits:** Rural legal aid groups see fewer pro bono partnerships.

Why It Matters
This EO politicizes federal legal access, making it harder for Montana tribes and universities to defend themselves in federal proceedings.

Agencies Affected
DOJ, GSA, DOE, DOI.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14263, 90 FR 20805 (2025-04-14).
- GAO reports on federal contracting.

EO 14264 - Maintaining Acceptable Water Pressure in Showerheads

Overview
Rolls back efficiency standards to require "full water pressure" in new showerhead models. For Montana, the impact is primarily in utilities and rural households. Higher water use stresses municipal systems and raises costs.

Project 2025 Alignment
Fits Heritage's broader deregulation theme (pp. 512–514).

Stated Goal
- Restore "commonsense" standards.
- Protect consumer choice.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Rural water systems face higher strain and costs.
- Households pay more for utilities.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Small rural water districts strained; boil advisories more likely.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal water systems (already underfunded) face added stress.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Low-income households see higher monthly water bills; seniors on fixed incomes hit hardest.

Why It Matters
This EO prioritizes **symbolic** deregulation over real needs. In Montana, it raises water costs and undermines already fragile rural and tribal water systems.

Agencies Affected
DOE (appliance standards), EPA (water).

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14264, 90 FR 20955 (2025-04-15).
- CRS reports on appliance standards.

EO 14265 - Modernizing Defense Acquisitions and Spurring Innovation in the Defense Industrial Base

Overview
This EO restructures the defense acquisition system, emphasizing speed and flexibility by scaling back reporting requirements, increasing reliance on private contractors, and minimizing congressional oversight. It is promoted as a way to ensure innovation and compete with China in defense technologies.

Project 2025 Alignment
Directly aligns with Heritage's call to "revitalize the defense industrial base by privatizing and accelerating acquisitions" (pp. 525–532).

Montana Context Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls is a key strategic site, employing over 4,000 personnel and tied to local contracting. This EO may increase the volume of contracts but reduces accountability, heightening risks of cost overruns and unsafe practices. Potential diversion of federal funds from community programs into defense procurement.

Impact On Montana

- **Defense Economy:** Malmstrom contractors could see funding growth, but instability grows without oversight safeguards.
- **Rural Health:** Reduced oversight may affect healthcare provided through defense contractors to families and veterans.
- **Tribal Nations: Tribes** contracting with DOD for infrastructure or cultural site protections may lose leverage.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income:** About 2,500 Montana defense workers face volatility in jobs if contracts rise and fall with political winds.

Why It Matters Short-term economic gains in Great Falls mask a long-term loss of accountability and stability. Opens the door to Montana communities tied to defense spending could see increased corruption, waste, and public safety risks.

Agencies Affected DOD, OMB, Malmstrom AFB contracting offices, MT university research programs.

Legal / Policy Anchors

- Based on the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), loosened by EO.
- Raises separation-of-powers issues as congressional oversight diminishes.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14265, 90 FR 21105 (2025-04-16).
- DoD contract data (Malmstrom AFB).

EO 14266 - Modifying Reciprocal Tariff Rates To Reflect Trading Partner Retaliation and Alignment

Overview
This EO adjusts tariffs in response to retaliatory measures taken by U.S. trading partners under EO 14257.

Montana context
Montana's agricultural exporters (wheat, beef, timber) face ongoing uncertainty, as tariff rates change rapidly. Export markets worth billions remain at risk.

Project 2025 Alignment
Matches Heritage's trade confrontation strategy: "reciprocal tariffs as leverage" (pp. 455–462).

Stated Goal
- Adjust tariff schedules to reflect global retaliation.
- Maintain pressure on trade partners.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Wheat and beef exporters see contracts canceled due to retaliatory tariffs.
- Ranchers and timber producers face sharp price swings in export markets.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture:** Wheat exports ($1.7B in 2023) and beef ($1.2B) destabilized.
- **Rural Health:** Declining farm income strains rural hospitals and clinics that depend on stable local economies.
- **Tribal Nations:** Crow and Northern Cheyenne grazing and timber contracts risk nullification by retaliatory barriers.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income:** 20,000+ farm families face instability; students in ag programs see career uncertainty.

Why It Matters
Montana's rural economy runs on exports. This EO ensures continued instability, putting farm livelihoods and community stability at risk for the sake of national tariff politics.

Agencies Affected
USTR, USDA, CBP, MT Wheat & Barley Committee, MT Dept. of Commerce.

Legal / Policy Anchors
- Section 301, Trade Act of 1974.
- WTO dispute potential; constitutional challenge possible over unchecked executive tariff power.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14266, 90 FR 21255 (2025-04-17).
- USDA export stats (2023).
- Project 2025, pp. 455–462.

EO 14267 - Reducing Anti-Competitive Regulatory Barriers

Overview
This EO repeals and modifies federal regulations deemed to be "anti-competitive," focusing on environmental, labor, and safety rules.

Montana context
Environmental permitting rules for mining, oil, and gas are weakened. Labor protections for loggers, miners, and farmworkers are rolled back.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct - Heritage: "deregulate to spur competition" (pp. 350–358).

Stated Goal
- Remove federal barriers to competition.
- Encourage industrial expansion.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Mining and energy projects expand with fewer environmental safeguards.
- Worker protections rolled back in hazardous industries.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** More mining in semi-arid counties, water and land at risk.
- **Rural Health: Relaxed** OSHA standards mean more injuries in high-risk industries.
- **Tribal Nations:** Resource projects near tribal lands advance with less oversight.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Low-income rural communities bear environmental and workplace costs.

Why It Matters
Montana bears heavy risks from deregulation framed as "pro-competition." Communities lose worker protections and environmental safeguards while corporations benefit.

Agencies Affected
EPA, USDA, MT DEQ, MT Dept. of Labor & Industry.

Legal / Policy Anchors
- Amends OSHA, EPA statutory authorities through executive action.
- Vulnerable to court challenges over separation of powers.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14267, 90 FR 21401 (2025-04-18).
- CRS/GAO reports on deregulation effects.

EO 14268 - Reforming Foreign Defense Sales To Improve Speed and Accountability

Overview
This EO accelerates the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) process, reducing congressional review of U.S. arms sales abroad.

Montana context
Malmstrom-related contractors and defense firms may see more demand, but oversight is cut.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage: "expand arms sales abroad with fewer restrictions" (pp. 528–531).

Stated Goal
- Speed up U.S. arms transfers.
- Strengthen alliances via defense exports.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Potential for more contracts tied to Malmstrom.
- Greater exposure to volatile global arms markets.

Impact On Montana
- **Defense Workers:** Contractors may benefit short-term.
- **Rural Health & Communities:** Defense spending emphasis could divert federal resources away from Montana social programs.
- **Tribal Nations:** Little direct impact, but tribal veterans may be affected indirectly by global instability.

Why It Matters
Montana sees modest job opportunities but loses democratic oversight of arms sales, increasing risk of corruption and international escalation.

Agencies Affected
DOD, State Dept., Malmstrom AFB contractors.

Legal / Policy Anchors
- Arms Export Control Act; oversight role weakened.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14268, 90 FR 21409 (2025-04-18).
- CRS reports on arms export oversight.

EO 14269 - Restoring America's Maritime Dominance

Overview
This EO provides subsidies and deregulation for U.S. shipbuilding and maritime industries.

Montana context
While landlocked, Montana depends heavily on Pacific ports to export wheat, beef, and timber. Maritime subsidies skew toward fossil fuel exports, potentially sidelining ag goods.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Heritage's "strategic dominance in maritime trade" (pp. 533–538).

Stated Goal
- Rebuild U.S. maritime industry.
- Secure shipping lanes for national defense.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Prioritizes fossil fuels for shipping, delaying agricultural exports.
- Raises costs for small ag exporters dependent on Pacific ports.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture:** Montana's $3B export sector faces delays as port priorities shift.
- **Rural Health:** Delays in imported medical supplies possible.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribally owned export businesses face higher shipping costs.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income:** Small producers, often veterans and family-run farms, squeezed by shipping price increases.

Why It Matters
Even landlocked Montana feels the effects of maritime subsidies. Agricultural exporters lose priority, raising risks for the state's biggest economic sector.

Agencies Affected
DOT, MARAD, USDA, MT Dept. of Commerce.

Legal / Policy Anchors
- Based on Merchant Marine Act; may conflict with WTO rules.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14269, 90 FR 21555 (2025-04-19).
- USDA export logistics reports.
- Project 2025, pp. 533–538.

EO 14270 - Zero-Based Regulatory Budgeting To Unleash American Energy

Overview
Directs energy-related regulators (EPA, DOE, FERC, NRC; Interior sub-agencies including BLM/BOEM/BSEE/FWS; and Army Corps) to insert "conditional sunset" dates into covered rules, with one-year automatic expiration of existing regulations following each agency's new "sunset rule," and ≤5-year sunsets on new rules; deadlines include issuing the sunset rules by Sept. 30, 2025 and treating lapsed rules as legally ineffective unless affirmatively extended after public input—"to the extent permitted by law." Supporters frame this as overdue clean-up of dated rules to spur energy investment-essentially wiping protections clean from the slate. Contriving the language to expire the rules risks yanking the framework protecting places and people from energy company greed and can force rapid, resource-intensive reviews and create regulatory whiplash if protections lapse by default; it also invites APA and statutory-conflict challenges (e.g., where Congress mandates ongoing protections under ESA, CWA, or safety statutes). Recent federal experience with a similar "SUNSET" construct shows heavy implementation burdens and litigation exposure, culminating in withdrawal after agencies found the scheme rested on flawed assumptions about workload and risk of inadvertent rule expirations. Hidden costs likely fall on communities and industry via uncertainty, compliance resets, and potential gaps in environmental and health safeguards.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Short clocks and "prove-it-again" hurdles move the default from protected unless changed to expired unless saved. In practice, that advantages parties with time and lawyers and disadvantages small towns, Tribes, and landowners who need stable, enforceable guardrails. Short fuses on energy rules could let key protections lapse between renewals, shifting pollution and land-use risks onto Montana towns, Tribes, and ranchers while creating costly whiplash for small operators and local governments.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied alignment with Project 2025's priority to **shrink the administrative state** and *"free the private sector from overblown government interference and regulation,"* i.e., fewer, shorter-lived rules and more executive control over agency output.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
"Reexamine and rescind outdated energy regulations to stimulate innovation and prosperity," via zero-based regulatory budgeting and regulatory sunsets. The American Presidency Project+1

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Field offices (BLM, FWS, Army Corps) must comb through energy-touching rules and either re-justify or accept automatic lapse on the deadline. To "re-justify or sunset" pressure thins out protective standards that were never designed for short cycles (e.g., wildlife protections around energy siting), while adding heavy process loads to already lean MT staffs. Although permitting programs aren't directly sunsetted, the rules those programs rely on could be, narrowing what can be required in reviews. The American Presidency Project

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health & Clinics** – If operational standards around emissions, dust, or water quality weaken by lapse, clinics may see more respiratory and water-borne burdens in energy counties; the effects fall first on people with limited specialty care access. (Mechanism: environmental exposure + distance-to-care.)
- **Veterans / Seniors / Low-Income** – Exposure risks concentrate where housing is cheapest—often near industrial corridors. Lapses can shift costs to fixed-income households (medical bills, well treatment).
- **Tribal Nations** – FWS and BLM rules that guide mitigation near trust resources and cultural sites face "extend or expire" cycles; consultation duties remain, but narrower underlying standards can blunt outcomes.

- **Communities & Households** – Short-cycle sunsets increase regulatory volatility. Businesses may welcome fewer rules; homeowners absorb more risk if protections disappear, and enforcement gets murkier.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
EPA; DOE; FERC; NRC; Interior (BLM, BOEM, BSEE, OSMRE, FWS); U.S. Army Corps.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges
- **APA/Ultra Vires:** Automatic lapses may conflict with statutes that presume continuous regulation (arbitrary/capricious if agencies ignore statutory purposes).
- **Separation of Powers:** Executive-imposed sunsets can clash with congressional designs embedded in organic statutes. Expect suits testing whether essential standards can be time-boxed by EO.

Montana Lens
Energy is big here—from Powder River Basin coal to transmission and the Stillwater complex's PGM-adjacent infrastructure. Stability matters; rules that wink out create whiplash for local governments and landowners.

Sources
Federal Register entry & metadata (90 FR 15643; PDF 4 pp.). Federal Register EO text (UCSB American Presidency Project). The American Presidency Project White House summary. The White House Analysis (Jones Day). Jones Day

EO 14271 - Ensuring Commercial, Cost-Effective Solutions in Federal Contracts

Overview
Pushes agencies to default to commercial products/services and to justify any non-commercial buys, with heightened approval-authority oversight, OMB involvement as needed, and 60/120-day reporting checkpoints. The administration frames this as enforcing existing law and cutting bespoke, government-unique procurements that inflate costs and delay delivery. Risks: in practice, a hard tilt toward "commercial" can collide with statutory preferences (e.g., small-business set-asides) and mission-specific needs, raising the odds of GAO/Court of Federal Claims bid protests and procurement delays. FAR already prefers commercial solutions—with exceptions—and also requires robust market research and protection of small-business participation; aggressive implementation that sidelines these requirements could be vulnerable on legal/process grounds and shift long-run costs (integration, security, lifecycle performance) back onto agencies and end-users.

Why It Matters for Montana
A hard "buy commercial" tilt can push DC-friendly but rural-unfriendly tools into VA, IHS, USDA, and DOI offices here—undercutting local vendors and services that actually work on low-bandwidth roads and reservations. "Commercial" isn't automatically fit-for-Montana. Without strong exception justifications, the EO can trade cost anecdotes for service quality in rural and tribal settings.

Project 2025 Alignment
Implied: uses procurement to shrink bespoke government and import private-market solutions—consistent with Project 2025's aim to reduce regulatory sprawl and "free the private sector" from government design specs. Heritage Foundation

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
"Eliminate unnecessary and imprudent expenditures… enforce FASA preferences for commercial solutions."

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Expect audits and reversals of custom buys in health, IT, and professional services across MT-serving offices (VA, IHS, USDA, DOI, DoD Malmstrom AFB). Agency memos already implement 14271 with review checklists and heightened OMB scrutiny—delaying or canceling niche solutions even when rural needs differ from urban markets.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health & Clinics –** COTS pressure can sideline tailored telehealth or mobile-clinic solutions designed for frontier counties if a generic national product exists on paper.
- **Veterans / Seniors / Low-Income –** VA and HHS/IHS delivery partners may be steered to national call centers or off-the-shelf platforms that fit poorly in low-bandwidth areas.
- **Tribal Nations –** COTS bias can undercut Indigenous-language, culturally informed care and data systems if not expressly valued in market research.
- **Communities & Households** – Local small-business vendors (IT, maintenance, transport) risk losing recompetes to big national COTS primes.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
GSA (FAR governance), OMB/OFPP; VA, HHS/IHS, USDA, DOI (BLM/USFWS/NPS), DoD (Malmstrom), DHS, EPA, etc. (government-wide).

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **Statutory guardrails remain** (Small Business Act set-asides, Buy American, 41 U.S.C./10 U.S.C. commercial preference rules). If agencies treat 14271 as a trump card and skip these, bid protests and APA suits follow. (EO itself anchors to FASA and cites 41 U.S.C. 3307(d); 10 U.S.C. 3453.) The American Presidency Project

Montana Lens

If an off-the-shelf solution can't reach a ranch ten miles past the last cell bar, it isn't "best value" here—even if it looks cheap inside the Beltway.

Sources

EO text (UCSB). The American Presidency Project Federal Register metadata (90 FR 16433; PDF 3 pp.). GovInfo+1 White House fact sheet. The White House Agency implementation (DoD; DOE AL; trade press). Acquisition.gov+2

EO 14272 - Ensuring National Security & Economic Resilience Through Section 232 Actions on Processed Critical Minerals

Overview
Orders Commerce to open a Section 232 national-security investigation into processed critical minerals and derivatives, with a 90-day interim milestone and a final report within 180 days, explicitly contemplating tariffs or other import restrictions and complementary measures to boost domestic processing/recycling. Proponents say this fortifies supply chains essential to defense and high-tech manufacturing. Risks: while courts have upheld Section 232's constitutionality, new measures still face challenges over scope, process, and economic impact; experience with 232 steel/aluminum shows downstream cost increases and price pass-through that can ripple across manufacturing. For minerals sourced from allies, broad tariffs may raise input costs for U.S. buyers and complicate diplomatic/industrial-base goals—hidden costs ultimately borne by consumers, local governments, and firms.

Why It Matters for Montana
A well-aimed 232 case could stabilize Stillwater-region mining jobs, but broad tariffs could raise prices for vehicles and equipment Montanans buy—so the remedy mix matters.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Directly consistent with reshoring critical-mineral supply chains and using trade tools to reduce reliance on adversarial suppliers—part of the broader "industrial base and de-risking" plank. Heritage Foundation

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Reduce national-security risk from import dependence on processed critical minerals and derivatives; counter foreign price manipulation/overcapacity; restore resilient domestic processing and manufacturing. The White House+1

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Montana is the only primary U.S. producer of platinum-group metals (Stillwater & East Boulder), part of multiple critical-mineral chains. A 232 case could raise prices on imported inputs, helping MT producers, but also raise costs for downstream manufacturers. Timelines matter: Commerce must move quickly; public comments already opened. U.S. Geological Survey+2USGS+2

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health & Clinics –** Neutral to modestly positive via mine-community stability if domestic production strengthens; watch for medical device cost pass-throughs if tariffs touch derivative inputs.
- **Veterans / Seniors / Low-Income –** Jobs at Stillwater-region mines support household stability; downside is consumer inflation if broad tariff baskets ripple through electronics/vehicles.
- **Tribal Nations –** Any production uptick near culturally sensitive areas raises consultation and stewardship stakes; benefits if projects are done with robust agreements.
- **Communities & Households –** Mine payrolls (Stillwater/Carbon/Stillwater Counties) vs. potential price impacts in vehicles, appliances, electronics; net effect depends on Commerce's remedy mix.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
When the U.S. buys refined minerals abroad, it exports value-add jobs. Done carefully, 232 can tilt demand back toward Montana and other U.S. sites—if environmental and community safeguards are enforced.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
Commerce (BIS/ITA), Treasury, Defense, Energy, Interior/USGS; downstream—DOE programs; local effect via Sibanye-Stillwater operations and emerging critical-minerals projects. The American Presidency Project+1

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **Broad 232 deference, but…** Courts have historically deferred to the President under 19 U.S.C. §1862, yet challenges argue economic policy isn't "national security," and that the record lacks a tailored nexus. Federal Register
- **Procedure & evidence:** If Commerce's 232 investigation looks pretextual, Plaintiffs will press APA/record adequacy claims against implementing rules.
- **Downstream IEEPA blend:** The EO contemplates IEEPA tools alongside 232; opponents may argue impermissible end-run around tariff statutes.
- **Montana lens:** 232 actions can reshape mineral supply chains, with cost impacts on ag machinery and energy inputs important to MT producers.

Montana lens
USGS and industry confirm Montana's Stillwater and East Boulder mines sit on the only significant U.S. source of primary PGMs (PGM = platinum-group metals (platinum, palladium, rhodium, iridium, ruthenium, osmium), so when palladium/platinum prices fall, paychecks and local budgets here feel it first. In 2024–2025, falling palladium prices led the operator to impair U.S. assets and trim output—exactly the kind of volatility communities want to avoid. A targeted Section 232 action that goes after unfairly priced imported processed PGMs or key derivatives could steady demand and prices and help keep Montana operations stable; a broad tariff sweep, by contrast, could raise input costs for Montana buyers and ripple through vehicles and equipment. Reuters+4U.S. Geological Survey+4

Sources
EO text (UCSB). The American Presidency Project Federal Register metadata (90 FR 16437; PDF 4 pp.). Federal Register WH fact sheet. The White House FR notice opening comments. Federal Register USGS/industry on Montana PGMs. USGS+2

EO 14273 - Lowering Drug Prices by Once Again Putting Americans First

Overview
Directs HHS, CMS, FDA, and others to pursue a suite of drug-pricing actions (competition, import channels, PBM transparency, Medicare mechanics). High-level signals trigger rulemakings and reports that will set the real policy teeth. Montana impacts flow through rural pharmacies, 340B providers, and seniors on Medicare.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Overlaps with calls to reshape PBM markets and use aggressive executive direction to "lower prices" while re-wiring ACA/IRA elements.

Real-World Translation (Montana)

- **Rural pharmacy risk:** Sudden PBM/340B shifts can destabilize tiny margins that keep frontier pharmacies open.
- **Importation pilots:** Talk of Canadian pathways may clash with new northern-border duty/tariff regimes if implemented inconsistently.
- **Rural Health & Clinics.** 340B and tele-pharmacy models could see rule churn, affecting insulin/epinephrine affordability.
- **Veterans/Seniors/Low-Income.** Short-term price relief uncertain; benefit design changes could produce winners and losers.
- **Tribal Nations.** IHS/tribal pharmacy operations rely on predictable supply and 340B savings.

Why It Matters. If downstream rules favor large PBMs/manufacturers or create compliance complexity, Montana's **thin rural pharmacy network** is at risk—**jeopardizing access more than prices.**

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)

- **HHS** (CMS/FDA/HRSA), FTC/DOJ (competition); MT DPHHS; critical-access hospitals.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **IRA interplay:** Directs HHS to alter Medicare negotiation guidance and pursue payment models; litigation could allege inconsistency with the Inflation Reduction Act's text, or arbitrary changes to already-noticed frameworks. Federal Register
- **340B & grant conditions:** Conditioning 330(e) health-center grants on insulin/epi pricing invites Spending Clause and statutory-authority challenges if conditions aren't germane or clearly stated.
- **Importation expansion (FDCA §804):** Efforts to streamline drug importation face FDCA safety constraints; manufacturers or trade groups may sue on preemption/safety grounds if FDA accelerates approvals without robust guardrails.
- **Antitrust coordination:** If DOJ/FTC actions appear directed by the White House rather than independent judgment, defendants may raise separation-of-powers rhetoric (even though enforcement remains within agency statutes).
- **Montana lens:** Rural clinics/pharmacies could benefit if rules survive, but implementation volatility (coverage changes, Part D premium effects) can hit seniors and low-income patients during transitions.

Sources

- Federal Register EO text and contemporaneous agency/analyst summaries. Federal Register+2Mintz+2

EO 14274 - Restoring Common Sense to Federal Office Space Management (revokes EO 12072 & 13006)

Overview
Revokes EO 12072 (1978) and EO 13006 (1996), removing long-standing federal siting preferences for central business districts and historic properties, and directs GSA to amend CFR parts on federal space to enable agencies to seek lower-cost facilities "where the people are." The stated aim is cost efficiency and mission focus. Risks/hidden costs: revocation withdraws policy guardrails that were designed to promote public accessibility, transit connectivity, and downtown/historic-district revitalization. Agencies still must comply with NEPA and NHPA Section 106 when relocating or reconfiguring space, but absent the prior preferences, siting decisions may shift farther from transit and services, raising access barriers for the public (including seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities) and eroding local economic and preservation benefits—costs not captured in rent-per-square-foot. Expect policy friction as GSA rewrites rules and as agencies navigate environmental/historic reviews for large moves.

Project 2025 Alignment: Implied. De-prioritizes urban/historic siting mandates to **cut footprint and real-estate costs**, consistent with shrinking federal presence and overhead. Heritage Foundation

Why It Matters for Montana
Moving federal counters off Main Street lowers rent on paper but raises the real-world cost of access for seniors, veterans, and low-income families who rely on walk-in service in Billings, Helena, Missoula, and beyond. Downtown service hubs (SSA, VA clinics, USDA service centers) could shrink in-person access unless agencies voluntarily maintain central sites.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health & Clinics –** If SSA/VA/USDA counters move to cheaper edges, patients without cars/bus routes lose access.
- **Veterans / Seniors / Low-Income –** These groups are the core walk-in traffic for central federal counters; moving them increases travel time and missed appointments.
- **Tribal Nations –** Central locations matter for multi-stop days in town (SSA + BIA + clinic); dispersion adds cost/time.
- **Communities & Households –** Downtown economies lose reliable federal tenancy; historic-property reuse suffers when federal anchors leave.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
GSA, plus all tenant agencies (SSA, VA, USDA, DOI, DHS, DOL, etc.). Federal Register

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges
- **NEPA/Historic review** still applies to federal actions; the revocation removes policy preferences, not environmental or preservation laws. Disputes will center on access equity and whether agencies adequately considered service impacts when relocating. (Text of EO shows simple revocation.) Federal Register Public Inspection
- **Equity/access claims:** Moving offices from central cities could spur Title VI and access-to-services complaints if impacts fall disproportionately on protected groups (transport deserts).

Sources
FR entry & public-inspection PDF (revokes 12072 & 13006). Federal Register+1 FR metadata (90 FR 16445; PDF 2 pp.). Federal Register+1 White House summary. The White House

EO 14275 - Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

Overview
This EO revises federal procurement rules to prioritize "efficiency" and "lowest cost," cutting requirements for labor protections, environmental standards, and small-business set-asides.

Montana Context
Federal contracts for firefighting, conservation, veterans' facilities, and tribal services are directly affected. Local firms and tribally owned enterprises risk losing out to out-of-state megafirms.

Project 2025 Alignment
Mirrors Heritage's push for procurement "commonsense reforms" that remove diversity, labor, and environmental criteria (pp. 470–476).

Stated Goal
- Ensure taxpayer savings in federal contracting.
- Reduce "burdensome" procurement rules.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Out-of-state giants underbid Montana small businesses and tribal contractors.
- Quality and safety standards weakened.
- Less community benefit from federal spending.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Firefighting and conservation contracts go to the cheapest providers, undermining safety in wildfire-prone regions.
- **Rural Health:** Rural hospitals supplied by federal contracts may see lower-quality goods.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribally owned businesses lose competitive edge in procurement.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Veteran-owned small businesses in Montana (~1,800 firms, SBA 2023) lose priority.

Why It Matters
Montanans lose when procurement focuses on "cheapest at all costs." Rural and tribal communities bear safety and service risks as contracts leave the state.

Agencies Affected
GSA, USDA, VA Montana, BLM, MT SBA.

Legal / Policy Anchors
- Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14275, 90 FR 22355 (2025-04-24).
- SBA Montana small business contracting report.

EO 14276 - Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

Overview
Expands subsidies for U.S. seafood industries and raises tariffs on imports.

Montana Context
Landlocked Montana does not produce seafood, but food and hospitality industries rely on imported products. Prices for restaurants and grocery stores rise, hitting rural households.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage calls for "aggressive industrial nationalism in food supply" (pp. 431–436).

Stated Goal
- Strengthen U.S. seafood industry.
- Reduce reliance on foreign imports.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Montana restaurants and grocery stores face rising seafood costs.
- Tourism industry in Glacier and Yellowstone gateway towns impacted.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Higher food prices reduce nutrition access for low-income households.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal casinos and tourism businesses pay more for seafood imports.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Families, seniors, and students face costlier groceries and restaurant meals.

Why It Matters
Even without a seafood industry, Montana consumers pay the price for protectionist tariffs that raise food costs and squeeze small businesses.

Agencies Affected
NOAA, USDA, MT Dept. of Commerce.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14276, 90 FR 22381 (2025-04-24).
- USDA food price outlook reports.

EO 14277 - Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth

Overview
Directs DOE and Education Dept. to prioritize AI education programs in K–12 and higher education.

Montana Context
Montana State University and University of Montana may benefit, but rural schools lack resources to participate. Without funding, mandates create unfunded burdens.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage: “AI education as part of STEM nationalism” (pp. 648–654).

Stated Goal
- Train youth in AI skills for competitiveness.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Funding concentrated in large universities, not rural schools.
- Creates urban-rural divide in access to AI education.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** No direct impact, but opportunity cost if education funding is diverted.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal colleges excluded from major funding streams.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Students in rural and low-income schools (~60% of Montana districts) left behind.

Why It Matters
This EO widens educational inequality. A few urban students may benefit, but rural and tribal students are sidelined.

Agencies Affected
DOE, Dept. of Education, MT OPI, MUS.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14277, 90 FR 22511 (2025-04-25).
- Montana OPI enrollment stats.

EO 14278 - Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future

Overview
Expands apprenticeship and vocational training programs, emphasizing private-sector leadership over public funding.

Montana Context
Montana's strong trades economy (construction, energy, manufacturing) may see expanded training opportunities, but without federal investment many rural communities are left out.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage: "private-sector apprenticeships with minimal federal oversight" (pp. 612–617).

Stated Goal
- Prepare Americans for skilled trades.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Rural high schools lack resources to connect with apprenticeship programs.
- Training geared toward fossil energy, less toward renewable or local needs.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Energy:** Focus on coal and oil trades over renewable energy.
- **Rural Health:** Indirect effect - underfunding of health-related vocational training.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal youth may be excluded from apprenticeship pathways without dedicated support.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Veterans gain apprenticeship pathways, but low-income rural students struggle with access.

Why It Matters
Potentially beneficial, but without funding equity Montana's rural and tribal students may be left behind, while fossil trades are favored over sustainable industries.

Agencies Affected
Dept. of Labor, DOE, MT Dept. of Labor & Industry.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14278, 90 FR 22545 (2025-04-25).
- Montana Dept. of Labor apprenticeship data.

EO 14279 - Reforming Accreditation To Strengthen Higher Education

Overview
This EO changes federal accreditation standards for higher education, reducing oversight and expanding eligibility for alternative providers.

Montana context
University of Montana and Montana State risk losing funding stability as alternative online providers undercut them. Tribal colleges particularly vulnerable.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage: "open accreditation to expand conservative/alternative institutions" (pp. 623–629).

Stated Goal
- Increase educational choice by broadening accreditation.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Weakens quality standards for Montana's public universities.
- Risk of federal funds flowing to low-quality online programs.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Loss of accredited nursing/health programs if oversight is weakened.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal colleges threatened with competition from poorly regulated providers.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Veterans may lose GI Bill protections if accreditation standards are diluted. Low-income students risk debt without quality outcomes.

Why It Matters
Accreditation reform threatens Montana's higher-ed ecosystem. Public universities and tribal colleges risk funding instability while predatory providers gain.

Agencies Affected
Dept. of Education, MT OPI, MUS, tribal colleges.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14279, 90 FR 22671 (2025-04-26).
- GAO reports on higher ed accreditation.

EO 14280 - Reinstating Commonsense School Discipline Policies

Overview
This EO reverses Obama- and Biden-era guidance that limited suspensions/expulsions in schools, reinstating federal support for "zero tolerance" policies.

Montana Context
Montana has ~148,500 K–12 students (2023–24). Rural and tribal schools with limited staff now face pressure to adopt stricter discipline policies, disproportionately affecting Native and low-income students.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct - Heritage advocates restoring "traditional discipline" and rolling back equity-based school guidance (pp. 701–706).

Stated Goal
- Restore order in schools.
- Reduce "federal overreach" into discipline decisions.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Stricter suspensions in rural and tribal schools with few alternatives.
- Special education and at-risk youth face disproportionate punishment.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Increased student exclusion worsens mental health crises in underserved areas.
- **Tribal Nations:** Native youth already suspended at 2x higher rates in MT - disparity widens.
- Veterans**, Seniors, Low-Income:** Families of low-income students bear disproportionate costs of exclusion (lost instruction, parent work disruptions).

Why It Matters
Montana students face greater exclusion from education under "commonsense" policies that worsen disparities. Tribal and rural communities lose opportunities for restorative approaches.

Agencies Affected
Dept. of Education, MT OPI, tribal education departments.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14280, 90 FR 22715 (2025-04-26).
- NCES Montana discipline data.
- Project 2025, pp. 701–706.

EO 14281 - Restoring Equality of Opportunity and Meritocracy

Overview
Ends federal diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs in education and employment. Requires hiring and admissions to ignore race/ethnicity.

Montana Context
Impacts hiring at UM, MSU, tribal colleges, and federal offices in Montana. Programs supporting Native students and staff risk elimination.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Heritage's campaign to eliminate DEI in government and education (pp. 692–699).

Stated Goal
- Ensure "merit-based" admissions and hiring.
- Eliminate "identity-based preferences."

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Loss of targeted scholarships and support programs for Native students (~12,000 enrolled tribal members in MT public schools).
- Tribal college funding jeopardized.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Fewer scholarships for Native and rural health students entering nursing/medical programs.
- **Tribal Nations:** Direct cuts to DEI-based tribal partnerships at UM/MSU and tribal colleges.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Loss of targeted federal internships and jobs for disadvantaged groups.

Why It Matters
Montana's most underserved students - Native, rural, low-income - lose support while elites claim "fairness." The result is deeper inequity masked as "meritocracy."

Agencies Affected
DOE, Dept. of Education, OPM, MT universities.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14281, 90 FR 22801 (2025-04-27).
- MT OPI tribal education reports.
- Project 2025, pp. 692–699.

EO 14282 - Transparency Regarding Foreign Influence at American Universities

Overview
Requires universities to disclose all foreign funding, contracts, and partnerships. Noncompliance can trigger funding cuts.

Montana Context
MSU and UM research programs risk losing grants tied to international partnerships. Tribal colleges may lose exchange programs.

Project 2025 Alignment: Heritage: "end foreign influence in academia" (pp. 639–642).

Stated Goal
- Increase transparency in higher education.
- Protect national security.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Compliance burdens overwhelm smaller institutions.
- Research partnerships with Canada/EU disrupted, cutting ag-tech and climate research.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Loss of international ag research partnerships.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal colleges lose cultural exchange programs.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Students lose access to exchange scholarships and programs.

Why It Matters
Montana's higher education network loses vital partnerships, weakening research and opportunity while providing little measurable security benefit.

Agencies Affected
DOE, State Dept., MT universities, tribal colleges.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14282, 90 FR 22855 (2025-04-27).
- MUS international programs reports.

EO 14283 - White House Initiative To Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Overview
Reestablishes a White House initiative for HBCUs, but redirects focus to private-sector partnerships and reduces direct federal grants.

Montana Context
Montana has no HBCUs, but the EO reshapes equity funding broadly. Risk that similar initiatives for tribal colleges lose ground.

Project 2025 Alignment
Indirect. Heritage suggests replacing direct equity funding with private sponsorships (pp. 690–692).

Stated Goal
- Promote innovation in HBCUs.
- Expand private investment.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Federal attention shifted away from tribal colleges and universities (TCUs).
- Tribal higher-ed risks losing parallel programs and federal support.

Impact On Montana
- **Tribal Nations:** TCUs face indirect funding cuts.
- **Students, Veterans, Low-Income:** Loss of equity-based scholarships and academic support programs.

It Matters
Even though Montana lacks HBCUs, this EO signals federal retreat from equity-based education programs. Tribal colleges will likely be the next target.

Agencies Affected
DOE, Dept. of Education, tribal colleges, MT universities.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14283, 90 FR 22901 (2025-04-28).
- AIHEC reports on tribal college funding.

EO 14284 - Strengthening Probationary Periods in the Federal Service

Overview
Extends probationary periods for new federal hires and weakens appeal rights. Makes it easier to fire employees before gaining civil service protections.

Montana Context
Federal employees in BLM, Forest Service, VA, and USDA in Montana (thousands of workers) face heightened job insecurity.

Project 2025 Alignment: Direct - "break public-sector union power and purge civil service" (pp. 278–283).

Stated Goal
- Improve accountability in federal service.
- Remove poor performers quickly.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Federal employees face longer probation with weaker protections.
- Opens door for political dismissals in BLM, USFS, VA, EPA.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** VA Montana staff instability threatens continuity of veteran care.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal liaisons in federal agencies become politically vulnerable.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Montana veterans relying on stable VA staff (~7,000 Missoula-area veterans) risk disruption in services.

Why It Matters
This EO destabilizes Montana's federal workforce, weakening service delivery in veterans' care, land management, and tribal consultation.

Agencies Affected
OPM, USDA, BLM, VA Montana, EPA.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14284, 90 FR 22933 (2025-04-28).
- OPM Montana workforce data.
- Project 2025, pp. 278–283.

EO 14285 - Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources

Overview
Authorizes expanded offshore mining and drilling for critical minerals and fossil fuels, rolling back prior environmental safeguards.

Montana Context
Montana is not coastal, but the EO shapes national markets. Offshore extraction prioritization risks shifting federal resources away from land-based reclamation projects in Montana and further anchors national energy policy in fossil fuels, raising costs for rural Montanans.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Heritage promotes "unleashing offshore and onshore energy" (pp. 327–334).

Stated Goal
- Strengthen U.S. energy security through offshore extraction.
- Reduce dependence on foreign minerals.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Resources diverted from Montana reclamation efforts to coastal drilling projects.
- Fossil-first policies lock Montana into volatile energy prices.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Less funding for MT mine cleanup; fossil lock-in undermines renewable projects.
- **Rural Health:** Higher fuel costs ripple into rural hospital budgets.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal renewable initiatives sidelined.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Rural fixed-income households hardest hit by volatile fuel prices.

Why It Matters
Even without offshore access, Montana pays the price for national fossil prioritization: higher costs, fewer resources for cleanup, and sidelined renewable projects.

Agencies Affected
DOI, DOE, MT DEQ, BLM Montana.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14285, 90 FR 23015 (2025-04-29).
- Project 2025, pp. 327–334.

EO 14286 - Enforcing Commonsense Rules of the Road for America's Truck Drivers

Overview
Loosens federal labor and safety rules for truck drivers, marketed as “commonsense” deregulation.

Montana Context
Trucking is vital - ~71% of Montana freight moves by truck (MT DOT, 2023). Deregulation risks more accidents on I-90 and I-15 corridors and increases costs for rural insurance and health care.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage: “rolling back labor and safety overreach in transportation” (pp. 486–491).

Stated Goal
- Cut red tape.
- Support trucking industry competitiveness.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Longer hours for drivers → fatigue risks.
- Cheaper short-term shipping but higher accident costs long-term.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Rural hospitals face increased trauma cases from accidents.
- **Tribal Nations:** Highway corridors crossing reservations (Blackfeet, Crow) face higher accident risk.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Low-income families face higher insurance premiums as accident rates climb.

Why It Matters
Montana’s vast distances make safe trucking essential. Deregulation threatens lives and raises hidden costs.

Agencies Affected
DOT, MT DOT, MT Highway Patrol.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14286, 90 FR 23041 (2025-04-29).
- MT DOT freight report (2023).

EO 14287 - Protecting American Communities From Criminal Aliens

Overview
Expands federal-local cooperation for immigration enforcement, directing resources toward identifying and deporting undocumented immigrants.

Montana Context
Montana has ~12,000 immigrant residents, many working in agriculture and service industries. The EO risks labor shortages, family disruption, and racial profiling in rural communities.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Heritage: "end sanctuary policies and intensify deportations" (pp. 551–558).

Stated Goal
- Protect communities from "criminal aliens."
- Strengthen public safety.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- In practice, targets workers with minor offenses or no offenses.
- Agriculture and tourism labor force undermined.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Loss of immigrant farm labor (especially dairy and beef).
- **Rural Health:** Fear reduces immigrant community health access.
- **Tribal Nations:** Jurisdictional disputes on reservations with ICE.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Seniors relying on immigrant caregivers lose support.

Why It Matters
Immigration crackdowns hurt Montana's economy and divide communities, with little safety gain.

Agencies Affected
DHS, ICE, MT DOJ, local sheriffs.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14287, 90 FR 23123 (2025-04-30).
- MT immigrant labor data (Pew Research, 2023).

EO 14288 - Strengthening and Unleashing America's Law Enforcement To Pursue Criminals and Protect Innocent Citizens

Overview
Expands DOJ grants for policing while reducing funding for community-based alternatives. Encourages "tough-on-crime" tactics.

Montana Context:
Law enforcement agencies in rural counties may gain funds, but prevention and treatment programs lose out. Tribal justice systems risk being sidelined.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. "law and order centralization" (pp. 561–567).

Stated Goal
- Strengthen public safety.
- Support police.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- More money for police equipment, less for opioid prevention.
- Emphasis on militarized policing in rural and tribal communities.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Addiction treatment programs lose funding.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal policing autonomy threatened by DOJ directives.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Veterans in crisis face policing over treatment. Low-income communities over-policed.

Why It Matters
Montana's opioid and mental health crises require treatment, not militarization. This EO prioritizes force over care.

Agencies Affected
DOJ, MT DOJ, local police, tribal law enforcement.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14288, 90 FR 23187 (2025-04-30).
- MT DOJ opioid reports.

EO 14289 - Addressing Certain Tariffs on Imported Articles

Overview
Adjusts tariff schedules on a range of imports, aimed at retaliating against trade partners.

Montana Context
Agriculture and retail heavily exposed - farm equipment, fertilizer, and consumer goods face higher costs. Montana exports risk retaliation.

Project 2025 Alignment
Heritage supports "reciprocal tariff retaliation" (pp. 335–340).

Stated Goal
- Protect U.S. trade balance.
- Defend against unfair practices.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Raises costs for Montana farmers buying Canadian equipment and fertilizer.
- Risks retaliatory tariffs on Montana wheat, barley, beef.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Farm families (~20,000 households) directly pay more.
- **Rural Health:** Higher costs ripple into food and healthcare goods.
- **Tribal Nations:** Cross-border tribal trade (Blackfeet at Piegan port) disrupted.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Seniors on fixed incomes pay more for consumer goods.

Why It Matters
Montana's export-driven economy is highly vulnerable to tariff wars. This EO burdens producers and consumers without addressing core trade issues.

Agencies Affected
USTR, CBP, USDA, MT Wheat & Barley Committee.

Sources
- Federal Register: EO 14289, 90 FR 23255 (2025-05-01).
- USDA Montana export data (2023).

EO 14290 - Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Biased Media

Overview

EO 14290 directs the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) to **stop all direct funding to NPR and PBS** and to **cancel existing awards "to the maximum extent allowed by law."** It further orders all federal agencies to identify and terminate any remaining grants or contracts with NPR or PBS. In practice, the order aims to claw back funding already approved for FY25 and block FY26 support unless Congress overrides it. (Federal Register, The White House). Montana public media provides rural news, education, and emergency alerts—CPB rescissions immediately affect operations. Local stations report material exposure: MTPR (~$353k, 11% of budget), YPR (~8%), and Montana PBS (~$1.8M, ~20%). These losses combine with congressional rescissions now advancing, which would erase more than $1.1B in CPB support nationally. (MTPR, Montana Free Press, NonStop Local Montana)

Project 2025 Alignment. Directly aligned. Project 2025 calls for **defunding public media**, shifting to private sponsorships, and labeling defunding as necessary for "political neutrality." EO 14290 operationalizes this goal by attacking CPB's funding pipeline and accelerating structural withdrawal of federal support.

Montana Impact Summary

The EO doesn't simply "signal" a preference; it **directs CPB to cancel funding already in the pipeline**. For rural and Tribal Montana—where commercial media is sparse—public broadcasting remains the primary source of local journalism, wildfire alerts, statehouse coverage, and educational programming. Loss of CPB support places these systems at immediate risk. For rural Montana, where public media may be the only local newsroom or educational broadcaster, the result is fewer reporters, weaker emergency communications, and thinner coverage of state government, water, wildfire, and tribal issues. Replacement philanthropy exists, but it's small and temporary relative to the hole. (Federal Register, Town & Country)

Key Montana Effects

- **Rural News & Emergency Communications**
  Public stations carry wildfire alerts, severe-weather warnings, and rural health programming across the Hi-Line, eastern Montana, and Tribal reservations. Cuts reduce signal reach and impede life-safety messaging. *(White House; MT Free Press)*
- **Tribal Nations**
  Blackfeet, Crow, and CSKT communities rely heavily on public broadcasting for cultural content, language programs, civic information, and engineering/interconnection support that would otherwise be prohibitively expensive. Loss of CPB resources hits Tribal transmitters hardest. *(Montana Free Press)*
- **Students, Schools & Families**
  Montana PBS provides classroom content, media-literacy tools, and PBS LearningMedia resources. Cuts weaken youth journalism partnerships and curriculum support in rural districts that cannot replace these with commercial alternatives. *(MT PBS; Montana Free Press)*
- **Compounded by Rescissions Legislation**
  Independent of the EO, the Rescissions Act advances provisions that zero out ~$1.1B in CPB appropriations over two years. Even if courts block parts of the EO, **the congressional cuts could still force service reductions or dark zones across Montana**. *(Washington Post; The Verge)*

Notes & Legal Conflicts

- Track the cases: Watch NPR v. Trump and PBS v. Trump in D.D.C. for TRO/PI rulings on viewpoint discrimination and PBA/APA claims. (Financial Times, Business Insider)
- If rescissions stand: Even if courts limit the EO's reach over already-awarded grants, the appropriations cuts could still force Montana stations into layoffs or dark zones. (The Washington Post)
- Where to monitor: Federal Register docket for any amendments; CPB/MTPR/YPR/MT PBS statements; CRS updates; Montana Free Press for state-level impacts. (Federal Register, Montana Free Press, MTPR)

EO 14291 - Establishment of the Religious Liberty Commission

Overview
This EO establishes a White House–based "Religious Liberty Commission" to monitor all federal programs for compliance with "religious liberty principles" and issue binding recommendations. In practice, it empowers federal agencies to favor religious organizations in funding and partnerships and gives the executive branch authority to redefine what counts as religious discrimination.

Montana context. State and tribal programs in health, education, and social services often rely on federal grants distributed on a neutral basis. This EO risks shifting resources toward preferred Christian organizations, marginalizing secular nonprofits, Native spiritual traditions, and interfaith providers.

Project 2025 Alignment: Direct - Heritage prescribes embedding religious liberty as a governing principle, expanding protections for religious organizations at the expense of neutrality (pp. 711–718).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Protect religious freedom in all federal policies.
- Ensure no federal program discriminates against religious providers.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Creates a pathway for federal grants to flow preferentially to religious groups, reducing secular or tribal access.
- Undermines long-standing church-state separation norms in Montana education and health.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Secular health providers (clinics, nonprofits) may lose funds to religious competitors.
- **Tribal Nations:** Native spiritual traditions risk exclusion if funding favors Christian institutions.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Social services redirected to faith-based groups, leaving fewer secular options.

Why It Matters
Montana's pluralistic landscape - Christian, Native spiritual, secular - risks being thrown off balance. What's presented as "freedom" becomes federal endorsement of one tradition, undermining equity and trust.

Agencies Affected
DOJ, HHS, Dept. of Education, MT OPI, tribal compacts.

Legal / Policy Anchors & Challenges
- First Amendment (Establishment Clause): Risks being challenged as unconstitutional state preference for religion.
- Montana-specific: Could clash with Article X of the Montana Constitution, which bars public aid to sectarian institutions.
- Potential suits: Civil liberties groups (ACLU, FFRF) expected to file challenges.

Sources & References
- Federal Register: EO 14291, 90 FR 23367 (2025-05-07).
- Project 2025, pp. 711–718.

EO 14292 - Improving the Safety and Security of Biological Research

Overview
This EO tightens federal rules for biological research involving pathogens, genetic editing, and biotech materials. Agencies must increase oversight and limit collaborations with foreign institutions.

Montana Context
Montana State University and University of Montana run **biotech and ag-research labs** tied to wheat genetics, animal health, and biosecurity. Stricter rules could cut grants and slow innovation.

Project 2025 Alignment
Indirect. Heritage advocates "tightened biosecurity" but also limiting federal science funding (pp. 341–345).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Prevent misuse of biological research.
- Strengthen laboratory safety and national security.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Compliance costs rise for MSU/UM labs.
- Research partnerships restricted, limiting agricultural biotech.
- Risk of reduced STEM grants for students.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Slows wheat/barley genetic research vital to MT's $1.7B grain economy.
- **Rural Health:** Reduced biotech innovation delays medical advances for rural populations.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal colleges excluded from compliance funding, limiting STEM growth.
- **Students:** Over 1,000 STEM graduate students at risk of losing research funding.

Why It Matters
What looks like stronger safety policy nationally could cripple Montana's innovation pipeline, leaving labs underfunded and rural farmers without new biotech tools.

Agencies Affected
NIH, USDA, DOE, MSU, UM.

Legal / Policy Anchors & Challenges
- **Statutory authority:** National Security Act, Public Health Service Act.
- **Legal tension:** If applied unevenly to foreign vs. domestic partners, may trigger APA challenges.

Sources & References
- Federal Register: EO 14292, 90 FR 23401 (2025-05-08).
- MSU grant data, GAO reports on biosecurity.

EO 14293 - Regulatory Relief To Promote Domestic Production of Critical Medicines

Overview
Cuts FDA regulatory requirements for drug manufacturing and accelerates domestic production permits. Marketed as a fix for shortages, masks real effort to remove regulations.

Montana Context
Montana's pharmacies, clinics, and VA facilities rely heavily on affordable generics. Deregulation may boost supply but weaken safety.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Heritage calls for slashing FDA "red tape" (pp. 367–372).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Strengthen domestic drug supply.
- Prevent shortages of critical medicines.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Lower regulatory barriers risk unsafe generics.
- Local pharmacies see cost relief but face recall threats.
- IHS and VA facilities lose quality oversight protections.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health:** Rural pharmacies (serving ~200,000 Montanans) vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- **Tribal Nations:** IHS clinics depend on federal chains; weaker oversight hits patients.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** ~70% of prescriptions in Montana are generics - all exposed to risk.

Why It Matters
Short-term supply gains come at the cost of long-term **trust in medicine safety**. Montanans, especially the elderly and rural poor, will shoulder the risks.

Agencies Affected
FDA, HHS, VA Montana, IHS.

Legal / Policy Anchors & Challenges
- **Statutory:** Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
- **Legal conflict:** Relaxing standards may conflict with statutory safety requirements; lawsuits likely if recalls increase.

Sources & References
- Federal Register: EO 14293, 90 FR 23465 (2025-05-08).
- GAO, CRS reports on drug safety.

EO 14294 - Fighting Overcriminalization in Federal Regulations

Overview
Decriminalizes many regulatory violations, converting criminal penalties into civil fines. Aims to reduce what it calls "regulatory overreach."

Montana Context
Weakens enforcement of worker safety, environmental, and financial laws. Montana workers, farmers, and families lose key protections.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Heritage advocates "ending criminal penalties for regulatory violations" (pp. 402–408).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Protect citizens from harsh criminal enforcement.
- Make regulation "commonsense."
-

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Corporations violating safety rules face fines, not jail.
- Rural workers, miners, and families carry higher risks.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Polluters fined but not criminally liable → greater risk to water and land.
- **Rural Health:** Less deterrence against unsafe industrial practices.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribal lands face higher exposure to environmental harm without strong enforcement.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Rural workers in high-risk jobs face increased danger.

Why It Matters
Montana loses the **deterrent power** that keeps corporations accountable. Civil fines may be written off as the cost of doing business, while communities pay in health and safety.

Agencies Affected
EPA, OSHA, USDA, DOJ.

Legal / Policy Anchors & Challenges
- **Statutory authority:** Based on executive enforcement discretion.
- **Legal challenge:** May conflict with Congress's intent where statutes specify criminal penalties. Litigation from labor and environmental groups expected.

Sources & References
- Federal Register: EO 14294, 90 FR 23511 (2025-05-09).
- OSHA enforcement records, CRS regulatory reports.

EO 14295 - Increasing Efficiency at the Office of the Federal Register

Overview. Directs the Archivist (through the Office of the Federal Register, OFR) to speed up Federal Register publication and review publication fees. Proponents say faster publication supports the administration's deregulatory agenda and reduces waste. Risks and hidden costs: OFR is a neutral record-keeper under the Federal Register Act; aggressive timelines and fee pressure could strain capacity, increase error risk, or be seen as politicizing a ministerial function. Because ACFR (Archivist/DOJ/GPO) sets the manner, form, and prices for the FR system by statute, any changes must still track 44 U.S.C. ch. 15—otherwise agencies may face uncertainty or internal process conflicts.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. The order is framed as enabling deregulation; Project 2025 explicitly calls to "deconstruct the Administrative State." Faster publication can shorten the runway for rollbacks and related actions across agencies.

Real-World Translation (Montana context) For agencies serving far-flung communities, lead time matters. Faster FR publication compresses the window local offices, Tribes, and small businesses have to read, plan, and comply—especially when multiple deregulation-focused EOs are landing in sequence. OFR doesn't decide policies; it publishes final actions. Speeding publication mostly affects timing—when rules, guidance, and rescissions become officially published and, often, when effective-date clocks start. In a broader deregulatory push, that can mean quicker posting for rollbacks that affect the quality of air, water, land-use, health, and benefits programs Montanans rely on; conversely. Bottom line: more volatility and less reaction time for local governments, Tribes, clinics, and small operators to adjust compliance or comment on related procedural notices. It's a 'rush job', certain to introduce more errors, confusion legal challenges.

Impact On Montana

- **Rural Health & Clinics** – Faster effective dates for environmental/health-related rule changes can shift **exposure or compliance** sooner than expected; planning buffers shrink.
- **Veterans / Seniors / Low-Income** – Program rules (SSA, VA, USDA) posted sooner can improve clarity, but frequent, fast changes raise the risk of confusion and administrative churn.
- **Tribal Nations** – Compressed timelines reduce lead time to assess impacts where federal actions intersect treaty resources, cultural sites, or trust lands.
- **Communities & Households** – Publication speed adds timing risk on top of other EOs (sunsets/streamlining), raising the stakes for local monitoring and rapid response.

Agencies Affected (in MT) Direct: NARA/OFR; with GPO and OMB. **Indirect:** all rule-issuing agencies serving MT (EPA, DOI, USDA, VA, SSA, HHS/IHS, DHS, DoD, etc.) whose actions rely on FR publication.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **Statutory guardrails (44 U.S.C. ch. 15):** The Administrative Committee of the Federal Register (ACFR) controls FR manner, form, and pricing; any fee or process changes must align with ACFR authority—potential friction if EO timelines outpace required ACFR/GPO actions. (Legal Information Institute)
- **Independence/role of NARA:** NARA is an independent agency in the executive branch; the Archivist is presidentially appointed/removable but expected to act with **professional independence**. Perceived politicization of OFR workflows could draw oversight, though litigation is less likely than **policy/process oversight**. (National Archives)

- **Rule vs. process:** If fee changes or publication practices are implemented without required notice-and-comment (where applicable) or conflict with 44 U.S.C. publishing directives, APA challenges are plausible.

EO 14296 - Keeping Promises to Veterans and Establishing a National Center for Warrior Independence

Overview. This EO creates a National Center for Warrior Independence, consolidating veteran services under a centralized authority meant to "streamline" healthcare, benefits, and workforce transition programs. It shifts oversight away from regional VA hospitals and into Washington-led planning. Expand private partnerships for veteran care.

Project 2025 Alignment. Indirect but strong - Heritage promotes outsourcing veteran care to private contractors and trimming federal guarantees (pp. 721–728).

Real-World Translation - Montana Context. Montana is home to ~91,000 veterans (~9% of adults, one of the highest per-capita veteran populations in the U.S.). Most rely on Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (Helena) and satellite clinics in Billings, Missoula, Great Falls, and tribal/IHS-VHA joint facilities. Centralization raises risks that funding is diverted to pilot projects or privatized care outside Montana.

- **Centralization** → decision-making moves to DC, reducing Montana's influence over veteran programs.
- **Privatization risk** → contracts with private providers drain funds from VA Montana facilities.
- **Resource diversion** → specialized services for PTSD, rural mental health, and tribal veterans could lose funding priority.
- **Rural Health:** MT veterans already face **long travel distances** (Helena, Billings). Privatization could force more reliance on scattered private providers, who may lack training in veteran-specific conditions.
- **Tribal Nations: A**bout **10% of Montana veterans are Native American.** Coordination between VA and IHS is fragile; this EO risks weakening tribal veteran services without additional funding for cultural/linguistic needs.
- **Agriculture & Economy:** Many veterans in Montana are ranchers/farmers; unstable healthcare impacts economic resilience.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Elderly veterans on fixed incomes are vulnerable if benefits shift to reimbursement-based private care (out-of-pocket costs up).

Why It Matters
Montana veterans stand to **lose more than they gain**. Centralization may streamline Washington's control, but on the ground it means **fewer local providers, longer waits, and higher costs** for rural and tribal veterans.

Agencies Affected. VA, VA Montana Healthcare System, IHS, MT National Guard.

Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **Statutory hook(s) & scope:** VA can organize programs under its organic statutes, but creating a new "Center" with interagency tasks/funding risks Appropriations Clause/Antideficiency concerns if it implies activities without explicit appropriations.
- **APA & benefits:** Any eligibility or reimbursement changes (prosthetics, caregiver, mental-health, housing) implemented via guidance rather than rulemaking can invite APA arbitrary/capricious challenges.
- **Privacy & data-sharing:** Cross-agency case management must square with the Privacy Act/HIPAA, SORNs, and information-sharing agreements; shortcuts expose the Center to litigation or OIG findings.
- **Procurement & grants:** If the Center channels money to preferred vendors/providers without FAR/CICA-compliant competitions, expect GAO/COFC bid protests.
- **Challenges:** VSO lawsuits likely if benefits are reduced; congressional oversight may probe diversion of funds.

EO 14297 - Delivering Most-Favored-Nation Prescription Drug Pricing to American Patients

Overview
This EO mandates that Medicare and federal health programs pay no more than the "most favored nation" (lowest) price that foreign countries negotiate for the same drugs.

Project 2025 Alignment
Mixed - Heritage favors lowering costs but via competition, not executive mandates (pp. 365–370).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
Lower prescription drug prices for American patients.

Real-World Translation (Montana context) Roughly 230,000 Montanans are enrolled in Medicare (Part D prescription coverage). Rural seniors and low-income households are most affected by high drug prices.

- Potential price relief for seniors and clinics.
- Uncertainty due to pharma lawsuits → benefits may be delayed.
- Local pharmacies may face lower reimbursements, cutting already thin margins in rural areas.

Impact On Montana

- **Rural Health:** Small independent pharmacies (critical in towns under 5,000 people) risk closure if reimbursement drops.
- **Tribal Nations:** IHS pharmacies may see indirect relief but also supply chain tightening if manufacturers retaliate by limiting distribution.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income:** Seniors (20% of Montana's population) stand to save on high-cost drugs (insulin, cancer meds). Veterans using VA and TRICARE benefit if extended to those systems.

Why It Matters
The EO promises relief, but **legal challenges** could stall action for years. Montanans with the **highest drug cost burdens** - rural seniors and tribal clinics - may never see the benefit if pharma succeeds in blocking it.

Agencies Affected. HHS, CMS, VA Montana, IHS.

Statutory limits: Medicare Modernization Act restricts negotiation authority.
Challenges:

- **Pharma suits** cite APA violations and unconstitutional overreach; early injunctions possible.
- **Major Questions & statutory fit:** Using EO-directed MFN pricing across Medicare/Medicaid interfaces raises major-questions risk unless grounded in clear statutory text; manufacturers will argue the EO re-writes pricing law.
- **Trade & USTR role:** If USTR pressures countries over reference pricing "freeloading," expect **APA** challenges to any implementing rules and potential **WTO** friction (national treatment/nondiscrimination).
- **Takings/contract claims:** Plan/pharma litigants may assert **contract** or **takings** theories if reimbursement formulas change mid-cycle.
- **Administrative process:** Rapid guidance replacing negotiated frameworks is **arbitrary/capricious** bait (cost-benefit, reliance interests).
- **Montana lens: Rural pharmacies and seniors** are exposed to **transition shocks** (formularies/premiums) before any promised savings materialize.

Sources
FR text; USTR notice referencing EO 14297; Presidency Project. Federal Register+2

EO 14298 - Modifying Reciprocal Tariff Rates To Reflect Discussions With the People's Republic of China

Overview
This EO modifies tariffs on Chinese imports, citing "reciprocal fairness" after new trade discussions.

Montana Context
China is a major trading partner for Montana's wheat, beef, and timber sectors. Retaliatory tariffs could devastate export markets. At the same time, Montanans rely on affordable Chinese machinery, electronics, and agricultural chemicals.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Heritage advocates tariff reciprocity to cut deficits (pp. 455–463).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Defend U.S. industries from unfair Chinese practices.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Export risk: Montana's wheat exports (over $1.7B in 2023) face barriers.
- Input costs: Farm equipment, chemicals, and consumer goods rise in price.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Grain exports (wheat/barley) jeopardized, threatening 20,000+ farm jobs. Ranchers face higher feed and input costs.
- **Rural Health:** Rural clinics importing medical supplies from China face delays/cost hikes.
- **Tribal Nations:** Tribally owned ranches/ag operations risk export loss.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income:** Consumer electronics, clothing, and school supplies rise in cost - hardest on low-income households and students.

Why It Matters
Tariffs may play well in Washington but create direct pain in Montana, where exports and imports are lifelines.

Agencies Affected
USTR, USDA, MT Dept. of Agriculture, Commerce.

Legal Challenges
- WTO disputes likely; exporters may sue over inadequate federal relief.
- **Emergency tariff architecture:** Operates under the reciprocal-tariff framework of EO 14257; challengers will argue the "emergency"/delegation is too open-ended and thus ultra vires or a major-questions overreach.
- **Record adequacy & APA:** Annex changes to HTSUS need a defensible record; cost/retaliation blind spots = arbitrary/capricious risk.
- **Foreign-affairs deference vs. trade law:** Courts defer on foreign affairs, but WTO/USMCA exposure remains; businesses will cite retaliation harms in seeking preliminary relief.
- **Montana lens:** Suspension/resumption cycles whipsaw MT importers/exporters; retaliation risk for **wheat/wood** persists even during "pause" windows.

Sources: FR 14298; CBP/USTR references; practitioner summary noting PRC suspension window; later FR extension note. Federal Register+2

EO 14299 - Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies for National Security

Overview
This EO directs rapid development and deployment of advanced nuclear technologies to support national security—allowing DOE, DOD and other agencies to site, test, and field reactors to power critical infrastructure and defense installations, with accelerated timelines and streamlined approvals.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct - Heritage promotes nuclear as part of "defense energy independence" (pp. 519–525). "energy dominance," domestic nuclear supply chains, and security-focused siting shortcuts—consistent with P2025's industrial policy chapters.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- Siting pressure on federal lands: National-security siting language points to bases, DOE/DOD ranges, or federal lands—potentially in or near Montana—where public comment windows are narrower.
- Water & grid stress: Even small reactors require steady cooling and transmission—an issue in semi-arid counties and during peak irrigation seasons.
- Local authority sidelined: If DOE/DOD lead, county zoning and PSC-style processes have less leverage.
- With Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls - one of the nation's three ICBM fields - Montana is a prime candidate for hosting test reactors.
- While Montana has no commercial nuclear plants, our economy runs through energy, defense, and public-lands footprints (Malmstrom AFB missile fields; big rural grids; federal/tribal lands). A "fast-lane" for siting test or micro-reactors on federal or defense property could touch Montana airspace, transmission corridors, and water availability—without the normal public process.

Energy & Natural Resources

- Opens door to pilot micro-reactors tied to defense missions; demands new transmission interconnects and cybersecurity hardening for rural co-ops.
- Potential uranium fuel-cycle traffic (conversion/fuel fabrication elsewhere) moving by rail through MT, raising emergency-response needs.
- Water-intensive reactors could compete with irrigation in Cascade and surrounding counties.
- Long-term waste storage and land-use conflicts with ranching.

Rural Health & Clinics

- Emergency-preparedness workload rises (hazmat, radiological drills); rural EMS and hospitals need funding to meet federal plans.
- Reactor accidents, waste transport, or groundwater impacts would overwhelm small rural hospitals.

Tribal Nations

- Any federal siting near or across treaty and trust lands triggers consultation; compressed timelines risk inadequate process for Crow, Blackfeet, CSKT.
- Blackfeet, Crow, and Northern Cheyenne sovereignty threatened if siting is pursued without consultation. Past nuclear siting on/near reservations has drawn resistance.

Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors

- Workforce programs may bring skilled construction jobs; but housing/cost spikes can squeeze low-income renters around project sites.
- Possible STEM jobs for MSU/UM graduates.
- Communities near sites face safety risks; property values fall.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO can put reactors where Washington needs power fastest. That may bring some jobs, but it also weakens local say on siting, shifts emergency-response costs to counties, and raises water and grid trade-offs in rural communities. Raises risk of reactor siting in rural counties near Malmstrom or on tribal-adjacent lands. Promises jobs, but local safety/environmental costs are borne by Montanans. Montana risks becoming a testing ground for experimental reactors, carrying disproportionate environmental and safety risks for the sake of national defense goals.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)
DOE; DOD; NRC (coordination); DHS (emergency planning); Montana DES; MT DEQ, Malmstrom AFB, tribal governments county emergency managers; rural electric co-ops.

Notes & Legal Conflicts

- Expect challenges if consultation or NEPA steps are curtailed; counties will seek cost-share for emergency planning
- **NEPA, NHPA, ESA:** Fast-tracking siting on federal or defense installations still requires **NEPA** review; categorical exclusions or truncated EIS timelines invite suit.
- **NRC vs. Executive direction:** To the extent deployments require **NRC licensing/oversight**, White House pressure that **constrains NRC independence** will be contested under the **Atomic Energy Act** framework.
- **DPA & procurement:** If the order leverages **Defense Production Act Title III**, protests may test **domestic-content** conditions and competition.
- **Radiological safety & preemption:** State/local resistance triggers **preemption** fights; emergency planning & indemnification (**Price-Anderson Act**) become litigation focal points.
- **Montana lens:** Any **federal-land/military siting** or fuel-cycle logistics crossing MT (rail/road) will face **NEPA corridor** challenges from landowners/tribes.

EO 14300 - Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Overview
This EO orders sweeping reforms of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), requiring "expedited approval" of advanced reactor applications, reducing environmental review requirements, and limiting the authority of NRC staff scientists.

Project 2025 Alignment. Heritage explicitly calls for cutting "bureaucratic red tape" at NRC and accelerating nuclear siting to secure "energy dominance" (pp. 520–523).

Montana Context
Montana currently has no commercial nuclear power plants, but Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls is one of three U.S. ICBM bases, making it a prime location for new "microreactor" projects. Weakening NRC oversight directly raises risks that rural Montanans become the testing ground for nuclear technologies without strong safeguards. Faster approvals, fewer brakes: NRC reforms can compress timelines for projects affecting Montana air, water, and rail corridors. Montana relevance: If NRC defers to DOE or shortens licensing, communities lose a key independent check on safety and environmental review for any nuclear activity touching Montana (transport, test modules, university labs, or defense-adjacent siting).

- Emergency preparedness: Counties on rail corridors (Billings, Great Falls, Havre lines) need upgraded hazmat/radiological plans.
- Less leverage for locals: Shorter public-comment windows and fewer hearings reduce county/tribal input.
- University & workforce: MSU/UM engineering may see research funds; housing & cost-of-living pressure near project staging areas possible.
- **Safety shortcuts:** Advanced reactors could be licensed without full-scale environmental assessments.
- **Local risks:** Great Falls and surrounding counties could face **nuclear siting decisions without local veto power**.
- **Transparency loss:** Public comment periods shortened, limiting Montana citizens' voice.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Nuclear siting could threaten groundwater in the **Missouri River basin**, critical for irrigation and drinking water.
  - Ranching communities risk reduced land values near proposed reactor sites.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Montana's rural hospitals (many with <25 beds) lack capacity for nuclear emergency response.
  - Evacuation planning in vast rural areas is nearly impossible under current infrastructure.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Blackfeet, Crow, and Northern Cheyenne tribes risk reactor siting on or near treaty lands.
  - Tribal water systems, already under strain, could be further threatened by reactor cooling demands.
- **Veterans, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Great Falls, home to ~7,000 veterans, faces disproportionate risk if Malmstrom reactors are approved under reduced oversight.
  - Fixed-income households could see property values fall if labeled "reactor communities."

Why It Matters
Montana is on the front line of nuclear expansion but has none of the infrastructure for safe oversight. Weakening NRC rules could turn the state into a guinea pig for nuclear experiments, with local safety traded for

national goals. Independent safety review is a public trust guardrail. Reform done poorly risks rubber-stamping complex projects with local consequences and no funding for county readiness.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)

- NRC (weakened role)
- DOE & DOD (expanded role)
- MT Department of Environmental Quality, MT DES
- Malmstrom AFB

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **Independent agency limits:** The NRC is independent; EOs cannot lawfully dictate adjudications, technical standards, or enforcement outcomes. Attempts to restructure roles or set binding licensing deadlines risk separation-of-powers challenges.
- **APA & scientific integrity:** If NRC issues rules "because the EO says so," courts can vacate for **arbitrary/capricious** action lacking technical record.
- **Due process:** Compressed licensing/contested-case schedules may impair intervenor rights.
- **Montana lens:** Expect challenges from Northern Plains Resource Council, Blackfeet Nation, NRDC. NRC organic statutes—reform vs. independence will be a litigation theme. Any accelerated licensing that touches source/material shipments across MT corridors will bring procedural challenges from local intervenors.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14300, 90 FR 24501 (2025-05-21).
- DOE/NRC reports on reactor siting.
- SBA veteran population stats (Montana).
- Heritage Foundation, Project 2025, pp. 520–523.
- FR 90 FR 22587; WH fact sheet; contemporaneous reporting on NRC independence concerns. The Washington Post+3Federal Register+3

EO 14301 - Reforming Nuclear Reactor Testing at the Department of Energy

Overview
Shifts reactor testing authority for advanced and experimental reactors away from the NRC and into the toward DOE, creates a Reactor Pilot Program, and sets aggressive timelines to test/approve designs—including at sites outside national labs. (Federal Register, The Department of Energy's Energy.gov)

Project 2025 Alignment. Heritage emphasizes using DOE/DOD labs to bypass civilian regulators and accelerate reactor testing (pp. 522–524).

Montana Translation
This EO makes it easier for the federal government to site experimental reactors at Malmstrom AFB or affiliated facilities in Montana without robust civilian safety review. Non-lab sites in play: Federal or utility-controlled land in/near Montana could be designated for pilots supplying critical loads. Local responders and utilities bear readiness costs; state PSC and county boards have limited say.
Impacts. Grid by affecting rural co-ops which may face interconnection upgrades and cybersecurity compliance. Water Cooling/water-rights conflicts in semi-arid counties. Tribal consultation risks if timelines are tight.

- **Experimental siting:** Malmstrom may host microreactor tests with little public input.
- **Community exclusion:** Local and tribal governments cut out of the approval process.
- **Privatization:** Defense contractors gain new powers with minimal accountability.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Water-intensive testing may compete with irrigation in Cascade and Chouteau counties.
  - Radioactive waste transport could run through rural highways, raising contamination fears.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Rural clinics already stretched by staff shortages would be unable to handle nuclear accident fallout.
  - Emergency preparedness funds not increased to match new risks.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Waste transport and testing corridors could cross Crow and Northern Cheyenne lands.
  - Treaty rights and sovereignty sidelined by national security justifications.
- **Veterans, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Great Falls veterans and families risk living next to nuclear experiments.
  - Property values could decline, hurting seniors and low-income homeowners.

Why It Matters. Testing closer to communities without full NRC process moves risk downstream—to counties, tribes, and ratepayers.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)
DOE (primary authority), DOD (Malmstrom AFB implementation), NRC (reduced authority), MT DEQ, Tribal governments

Legal / Policy Anchors & Challenges

- **Atomic Energy Act:** NRC legally responsible for safety - EO may exceed executive authority.
- **NEPA:** Environmental review fast-tracking invites lawsuits.
- **Likely challengers:** Tribes, Montana Environmental Information Center, GAO review on contractor accountability.

EO 14302 - Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base

Overview
Directs DOE and DOD to expand domestic nuclear supply chains and to rebuild domestic nuclear supply chains (fuel, components, workforce), speed licensing, and support exports. Including from uranium extraction and fuel fabrication to reactor components using subsidies, fast-track permits, and federal purchasing commitments. It encourages federal land and mineral leasing for uranium and orders an interagency plan to "remove barriers" to siting and transport.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Heritage's energy chapters call for reviving the domestic nuclear fuel cycle and reducing environmental "obstruction" (pp. 523–526).

Montana context: Eastern Montana sits on the northern edge of the Powder River Basin and other formations with legacy uranium prospects. The EO's "barrier removal" language signals easier exploration and in-situ recovery (ISR), a technique that can mobilize contaminants in groundwater if safeguards are weak. Rural counties and reservations would carry long-tail cleanup risks while most value created flows out of state. Freight & fabrication: More nuclear-related rail movements across MT mainlines; potential siting of component vendors in industrial hubs (Billings, Great Falls) with water/power demands.

- **Workforce:** Training money may flow to MUS; housing/childcare strain likely where facilities cluster.
- Leasing and ISR "pilot" projects pushed onto or near ag and tribal lands.
- Federal purchase guarantees (for defense) socialize market risk; environmental and water risks stay local.
- Haul routes for yellowcake and waste components across rural highways with limited emergency capacity.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Groundwater competition & contamination risk for ranchers using wells and riparian systems; ISR can alter aquifer chemistry.
  - Land value pressure around claim areas; lenders may flag collateral near exploration zones.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Long-latency cancer risks and chronic exposure concerns, but rural hospitals lack oncology capacity; screening and monitoring costs fall on counties.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Crow and Northern Cheyenne governments face sovereignty conflicts over minerals, water withdrawals, and haul corridors. Legacy mine scars in the region amplify community distrust. Consultation fights likely if "expedited" means "bypassed."
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Blue-collar jobs possible short-term, but boom-bust cycles and cleanup liabilities historically leave low-income households with stranded costs and degraded land.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This is a classic externalization: national security benefits are federal; health, water, and cleanup risks are local. Without ironclad bonding and monitoring, Montana inherits long-run liabilities. Benefits are speculative; costs (infrastructure, emergency prep, housing) are immediate for host communities unless federal dollars follow.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
DOE, DOI/BLM, NRC (fuel), MT DEQ, county conservation districts; Crow & Northern Cheyenne governments.

Legal / Policy Anchors & Challenges

- NEPA (major federal action + cumulative impacts); NHPA §106 (cultural sites); treaty rights & Winters water doctrine.
- CERCLA risk if contamination occurs; financial assurance and perpetual care requirements must be explicit.
- Likely challengers: tribal governments; Northern Plains Resource Council; county conservation districts.
    - **DPA deployment:** Use of Defense Production Act for uranium/fuel-cycle buildout is generally lawful, but domestic-content and vendor selection decisions face bid protests; NEPA still applies to funded projects.
    - **Trade & sanctions overlap:** Fuel-cycle sourcing can implicate sanctions/export controls; missteps risk IEEPA/OFAC exposure.
    - **Environmental permitting:** Milling/enrichment restarts invite Clean Air/Water and RCRA challenges.
    - **Montana lens:** If industrial-base actions affect uranium transport or grid interconnect upgrades crossing MT, expect NEPA/land-use litigation from local stakeholders. **Sources:** FR 90 FR 22595; Presidency Project; DOE DPA implementation note. Federal Register+2The American Presidency Project+2

Sources & References

Federal Register: EO 14302, 90 FR 24781 (2025-05-23). Project 2025 nuclear supply-chain sections (pp. 523–526). MT DEQ uranium legacy files; ISR environmental literature.

EO 14303 - Restoring Gold Standard Science

Overview. Brands a new federal research rulebook as "gold standard": mandatory raw-data disclosure, reproducibility/replication requirements, pre-registration for certain studies, and agency rejection of studies that cannot make all underlying data public. It instructs agencies to weigh "real-world costs" more heavily and to discount modeling or confidential-data epidemiology in regulatory decisions.
Reviews warn it can be used to second-guess climate and health science and to require data disclosures that smaller research teams can't meet. (Federal Register, Justice Department)

What "gold standard" really means. In practice, this mirrors the earlier "secret science" approach: if a study's patient data or proprietary datasets can't be fully public, agencies may exclude or down-weight it—even if it's the best evidence (e.g., epidemiology linking PM2.5 wildfire smoke to cardiopulmonary harm). It also lets agencies redefine "best available science" to favor studies that align with current policy preferences, not objective evidence. "Gold standard" can mean paperwork over practice—slowing the very Montana-specific science communities need for fire, drought, and water policy.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Heritage's "sound science" planks favor transparency tests that disqualify public-health and climate studies and push industry-friendly weight-of-evidence frameworks (pp. 331–336).

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Wildfire & air-quality health studies** that rely on confidential medical records become inadmissible in rulemakings if data can't be fully public—undercutting smoke-response standards that protect ranch, logging, and outdoor workers.
- **Water-quality & mine-impact epidemiology** (small-N rural studies) get down-weighted for "insufficient replicability," hamstringing responses to contamination.
- **Climate & hydrology modeling** for the Missouri/Yellowstone basins can be discounted as "unreplicated models," limiting drought planning.
- **Agencies may cite the EO to override long-standing scientific-integrity policies and substitute political tests for methodological ones.**

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Weaker reliance on smoke/PM2.5 science → looser worker protections during severe fire seasons; less urgency on prescribed-burn windows and PPE requirements.
  - **Discounted** hydrologic models → poorer irrigation and drought planning for Gallatin, Yellowstone, and Hi-Line producers.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - **Public**-health surveillance studies (opioids, suicide, pediatric asthma) often rely on non-public health records. Under this EO, those findings can be sidelined in grant and policy decisions—hurting rural funding cases.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - **TEK** (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) and community-based studies risk dismissal as "non-replicable."
  - **Tribal** health research that protects confidential tribal member data becomes ineligible as decision-grade evidence.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - **VA**/University partnerships researching rural PTSD, burn-pit exposure, or elder respiratory health could lose status if underlying patient datasets can't be published.

- **Graduate** funding at MSU/UM tied to wildfire/climate/health models is at risk.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
The "gold standard" implies quality and sounds neutral, however, in this context it operates like a gate: if your best evidence involves confidential patients, small rural cohorts, or complex models, it doesn't count. That skews policy toward the administration's preferred outcomes, not toward the truth. Putting at risk, manipulation of data and outcomes, fabrication of results to achieve an outcome, short-cuts on professional standards, distortion, misrepresentation, cherry-picking evidence, manufacturing doubt and politicizing science to create an environment where scientific findings can be more easily dismissed or manipulated if they don't align with political goals. **The only 'standard' for science is truth. Montanans need truth for smoke, water, climate, and health decisions.** Researchers face new compliance burdens (data archiving, disclosure) that can delay wildfire, water, and wildlife studies, weather records and predictions are truncated and scrubbed of climate change. Agriculture and health research timelines lengthen, affecting even county decision-making (fire season, smoke, drought planning).

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
EPA, USDA, DOI, NOAA; HHS/CDC; VA; MSU/UM; tribal colleges.

Legal / Policy Anchors & Challenges
- Information Quality Act / Data Quality Act weaponized to exclude evidence; clashes with APA if agencies ignore best available science.
- Scientific Integrity directives (OSTP) vs. EO conflict; universities, medical associations, and states can challenge as arbitrary & capricious.
- Privacy laws (HIPAA) make full raw-data disclosure impossible—exclusion punishes lawful privacy → strong litigation point.
- Scientific integrity vs. compelled disclosure: New disclosure and review mandates must align with FOIA, Privacy Act, and the Information Quality Act; if framed to police "bias," rules risk viewpoint-discrimination claims.
- APA concerns: Replacing existing scientific-integrity policies without record support invites arbitrary/capricious challenges.
- Whistleblower protections: Any chilling of scientist speech/publication can clash with Whistleblower Protection Act and agency scientific-integrity directives.
- Montana lens: MSU/UM grantees could face new data-posting burdens or conflicts with IRB/human-subjects rules before publications.

Sources
Federal Register: EO 14303, 90 FR 24879 (2025-05-24); FR 90 FR 22601; Project 2025 "sound science" chapters (pp. 331–336). OSTP Scientific Integrity memos; EPA "transparency"/"secret science" debates (context). DOJ OIP analysis.

See Appendix - Detail on Executive Order 14303 titled 'Restoring Gold Standard Science' – and the integrity of Science

EO 14304 - Leading the World in Supersonic Flight

Overview
Directs FAA and DOD to open new corridors and compress noise-rule timelines to permit supersonic testing and limited operations. Allows military-civil "dual use" corridors and instructs agencies to streamline environmental reviews for sonic-boom events. Directs FAA, DOD and agencies to modernize noise rules, support R&D, and clear airspace corridors for supersonic testing and operations.

Project 2025 Alignment. Indirect. Heritage champions defense/aviation dominance and streamlined testing (pp. 611–615).

Montana context: Montana's low-density airspace makes it an attractive boom corridor. Repeated overpressures (sonic booms) can stress livestock, disturb wildlife in Glacier/Yellowstone ecosystems, and erode tourism if flights expand. Directs FAA, DoD and agencies to modernize noise rules, support R&D, and clear airspace corridors for supersonic testing and operations. More restricted airspace around Malmstrom AFB, dams (Fort Peck, Hungry Horse), refineries, and mass events.

- Boom corridors over ranchlands and tribal areas; NEPA reviews compressed.
- Insurance and compliance costs shift to small airports and GA operators; wildlife disturbance not fully mitigated.
- Temporary flight restrictions (TFRs) could squeeze aerial firefighting windows during peak season.
- **Airspace & noise:** Montana's vast test corridors and proximity to Malmstrom AFB make it a likely overflight/training region; ranchlands and wildlife areas would see higher-altitude noise and more restricted airspace during tests.
- **Tourism impacts:** National-park gateways (Glacier/Yellowstone approaches) are sensitive to noise.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Cattle miscarriages/stress tied to repeated high-intensity noise; wildlife displacement affects outfitters/guides.
  - Potential flight deconfliction with ag aviation (crop dusting).
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - **Air**-ambulance routing complexity during TFRs; small hospitals can't absorb delay risks.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Sacred sites/quiet uses disrupted; boom corridors over sovereign lands without robust consent escalate conflict.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - ANG/maintenance jobs possible; property values near corridors may drop; students in flight programs lose predictable training blocks.

Why It Matters
Supersonic testing exports noise and risk to rural Montana for national prestige—with limited local benefit and real burdens on ranchers, tribes, and tourism. The EO moves fast; Montana communities have little leverage over corridor placement, yet they absorb the noise, flight-path limits, and tourism risks.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
FAA, DOD/ANG (Great Falls), MT DOT Aeronautics, NPS/USFS.

Legal / Policy Anchors & Challenges

- FAA noise statutes; NEPA for corridor approvals; NHPA §106 for cultural landscapes. FAA statutory lane: The sonic-boom overland ban and Stage 5 noise standards can't be undone by EO; FAA must rulemake with full NEPA review. Any EO-driven timeline compression invites APA challenges.
- Tribes and conservation groups likely to litigate over boom-corridor EAs and inadequate mitigation.
- **International alignment:** Divergence from ICAO noise/boom norms risks trade and overflight rights friction.
- **Procurement favoritism:** If the EO steers DoD/FAA procurement to named platforms, expect bid protests.
- **Montana lens: Overland testing corridors** could implicate MT airspace and NEPA for flight-test routes over wilderness/tribal lands.

Sources

FR 90 FR 24717 (EO 14304) and FR issue contents. Federal Register+1 ; Presidency archive. (GovInfo, The American Presidency Project)

EO 14305 - Restoring American Airspace Sovereignty

Overview
Reasserts federal control over U.S. airspace by narrowing international coordination and renegotiating cross-border arrangements. Directs DHS/FAA to tighten entry corridors and review over-flight permissions. Expands counter-UAS (drone) authority to protect critical infrastructure and public events; directs FAA/DHS/DOJ to designate and enforce no-drone zones.

Project 2025 Alignment. Indirect. Skepticism of international compacts; emphasis on unilateral.

Montana Context. Northern Montana relies on seamless Canada-U.S. GA traffic for business, health transport, tourism, and firefighting. New restrictions slow cross-border flights, add paperwork, and raise costs at small airports (Cut Bank, Havre, Shelby; plus regional hubs like Great Falls and Kalispell). Border and wildfire UAS operations in MT could be curtailed by broad C-UAS zones; local operators may challenge overbreadth.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Cross-border GA flights** face new slots, fees, or routings.
- **Firefighting and medevac** coordination with Canada can slow during emergencies.
- Tribal citizens with cross-border family ties (e.g., Blackfeet/Blackfoot Confederacy) face added hurdles for cultural/ceremonial travel by air.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Aerial application and ranch supply flights see cost/time spikes; parts arriving from Canada delayed.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Air ambulance cross-border transfers slowed by new clearance steps; small facilities bear the risk.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Cross-border Blackfoot Confederacy relationships chilled; sovereignty vs. federal over-flight rules clash.
- **Veterans**, Students, Low-Income, Seniors
  - Small-airport finances stressed; ticket prices creep up; seniors relying on regional flights face cancellations.

Why It Matters. Montana's border economy runs on frictionless air coordination. This EO adds friction—with safety and cost consequences that D.C. won't feel. Safety matters—but blanket restrictions without local carve-outs choke off beneficial uses (ag scouting, search-and-rescue, wildfire mapping) widely used in rural Montana.

Agencies Affected (MT). FAA, DHS/CBP, Transport Canada (coordination counterpart), MT airports.
Legal / Policy Anchors & Challenges
- Chicago Convention & bilateral agreements; arbitrary changes risk international disputes.
- Airport/airline associations and tribes could challenge APA-deficient rule changes.
- **Federal preemption & C-UAS powers:** Consolidating counter-UAS can preempt state law, but RF jamming/intercept authorities are tightly cabined in statute; agencies exceeding 6 U.S.C. and related authorities risk suits.
- **4th Amendment / due process:** Persistent aerial surveillance and automated interdiction implicate search/seizure and property-taking claims (for destroyed UAS).
- **APA & coordination:** Reassigning authorities across DHS/FAA/DOJ without rulemaking or clear statutory basis invites APA challenges.

Sources
FR 90 FR 24719; Presidency Project; FR/govinfo page record. Federal Register+2**;** FR text; Congress bill to codify EO 14305 (context). (GovInfo, Congress.gov)

EO 14306 - Sustaining Select Efforts To Strengthen the Nation's Cybersecurity (and narrowing others; (amending EO 13694 & 14144))

Overview. Keeps cybersecurity initiatives for "core national security" sectors but cuts or consolidates grants for local governments, rural schools, small hospitals, and electric co-ops. CISA is told to retire lower-priority programs and "promote private solutions."

Project 2025 Alignment. Indirect. Narrow cyber to defense, shrink civil grants (pp. 633–637).

Montana Context MT's 56 counties, hundreds of school districts, dozens of Critical Access Hospitals, and rural electric co-ops have leaned on federal cyber grants and shared services to defend against ransomware. Pulling that support leaves soft targets across the state. Rural co-ops, hospitals, and water districts using managed security will face compliance screens against sanctioned vendors; small IT shops may struggle with evolving lists.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- Counties and school districts cannot afford 24/7 monitoring, MFA rollouts, incident response retainers.
- Rural hospitals (already short staffed) lose cyber hygiene funds; a single attack can shut down EHRs and telehealth for weeks.
- Electric co-ops face elevated risk to SCADA systems, threatening outages.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Power or water utility breaches disrupt irrigation pumps, cold-storage, and processing.
  - Timber and ag processors at greater risk of business-email compromise and OT disruptions.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Clinic ransomware → ambulance diversions over long distances; medication and imaging delays.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Tribal IT programs lose shared-service grants; public-safety networks on reservations become high-value targets.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - School system attacks freeze free-meal programs, student records, and special-ed services; elder telehealth sessions canceled.

Why It Matters. Cybersecurity is infrastructure. When grants vanish, attackers don't—rural Montanans pay with blackouts, canceled care, and lost school days. Security upgrades are needed—but without funding, this becomes an unfunded mandate for rural Montana and tribal governments.

Agencies Affected (MT). CISA/DHS, DOE (energy), HHS (hospital preparedness), MT PSC, local govts, co-ops.

Legal / Policy Anchors & Challenges

- FISMA & critical infrastructure directives vs. EO cuts → appropriations friction.
- If grant terminations are arbitrary, localities may press APA claims or seek state bridge funding.
- **IEEPA scope & due process:** Continuing/expanding cyber-sanctions and takedown coordination relies on **IEEPA** and prior cyber EOs. Designations can draw **due-process** and **extraterritoriality** challenges (notice, reasons, unclassified evidence) from listed firms/individuals.
- **Separation of powers / major-questions angle:** If the EO is read to create new, broad cyber authorities beyond sanctions (e.g., compelled network actions), expect **major-questions** arguments that Congress didn't clearly authorize.
- **Private-sector mandates:** Any de facto mandates on ISPs/critical-infra operators, without rulemaking, invite **APA** attacks (arbitrary/capricious, lack of record).

EO 14307 - Unleashing American Drone Dominance

Overview
Pushes rapid expansion of drone testing, BVLOS (beyond-visual-line-of-sight) operations, and exports. Orders FAA agencies to integrate drones into the National Airspace System, waive or streamline approvals for test ranges and to designate priority corridors; instructs Commerce/State to expedite export licensing—on tight timelines.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Heritage promotes drone dominance and regulatory speed (pp. 615–620).

Montana Context. With vast Class E/G airspace, ANG operations, and sparse population, Montana is a prime candidate for new BVLOS corridors and military-adjacent testing—bringing privacy, livestock, wildfire, and tribal airspace concerns. Wildfire & range-management UAS programs could be disrupted if current fleets (often non-U.S.) are barred before replacements arrive.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- Benefits: Agriculture (crop scouting), range monitoring, pipeline/powerline inspection, search-and-rescue could all scale with BVLOS rules.
- Costs: Preemption may override local/tribal restrictions; privacy, wildlife disturbance, and noise concerns rise; small operators face compliance tech costs.
- Low-altitude corridors over ranchlands: livestock spooking, calving disruptions, noise.
- Privacy & surveillance over rural homes without clear redress; data retention unclear.
- Wildfire conflict: more drones in the air increase shut-downs of aerial firefighting when unauthorized systems are detected.
- Tribal sovereignty: corridors may overfly reservations without consent; data collected on tribal lands used without agreements.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Ranchers face animal stress and fence-line incursions; wildlife flushed from riparian zones.
  - Some upside for crop scouting and range mapping—but those benefits are underfunded relative to defense testing.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Medical drone pilots (lab samples, meds) are promising but not prioritized; communities get the noise and risk, not the service.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Unconsented overflight and sensor collection violate expectations of sovereignty; cultural sites could be mapped without permission.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - ANG and contractor jobs grow; training & scholarships could expand at MSU/UM.
  - Rural residents bear privacy losses and property-value risk near corridors.

Why It Matters
This EO front-loads testing and exports and back-loads safeguards. Montana becomes an ideal test bed—unless communities set firm consent, privacy, and wildfire-season limits. This can help ranchers and utilities—but without guardrails and funding, the gains go to big platforms, while small Montana operators shoulder equipment and licensing costs.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
FAA (Part 107/BVLOS waivers), DOD/ANG, Commerce/State (exports), MT DOT Aeronautics, county sheriffs.

Legal / Policy Anchors & Challenges

- **Procurement law:** "Buy-American"/vendor-origin preferences must still satisfy **CICA/FAR**; over-exclusive agency-wide bans on foreign platforms can trigger **GAO/COFC bid protests**.
- **Preemption & airspace:** Agency policies affecting where/how drones fly cannot **override FAA** safety/airspace rules; attempts to shortcut FAA rulemaking risk **APA** challenges.
- **Data & surveillance:** Expanded federal UAS use implicates **Fourth Amendment** risks (persistent aerial surveillance) and **Privacy Act** data-use limits.
- FAA preemption of airspace vs. tribal sovereignty claims; NEPA for corridor designation.
- State privacy & nuisance actions; tribal resolutions asserting airspace consent.
- Fire-management conflicts under 14 CFR § 91.137 (TFRs).

Sources
FR EO text; Presidency Project; industry analyses. Federal Register+2; White House fact sheet; legal analyses. (GovInfo, The White House, Beveridge & Diamond PC)

EO 14308 - Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response

Overview
EO 14308 reframes federal wildfire policy by emphasizing logging, grazing, and mechanical thinning over science-driven prevention, community resilience, and climate-informed land management. While the order promises to "empower commonsense wildfire prevention," in practice it reduces funding for prescribed fire science, risk mapping, and prevention grants, shifting dollars toward extractive industry access and expedited approvals for timber and grazing leases.

Project 2025 Alignment
Reflects Heritage's agenda to streamline NEPA, elevate commercial thinning/grazing, and deprioritize conservation or climate-driven prevention (Project 2025, pp. 487-495).

For Montana, where more than 5.1 million acres of state and private land fall under DNRC fire protection, this change undermines carefully built programs that emphasize prevention, defensible space, and homeowner risk reduction. The EO sidelines local science-based strategies such as DNRC's free wildfire risk assessments and Home Ignition Zone / homeowner hardening programs.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Funding diversion:** Prevention grants & fire science research may be reduced; more funds likely to go to timber/grazing permits.
- **Suppression bias deepened:** Studies show suppressing many small fires leads to accumulation of fuels, increasing severity in future fires.
- **Community prevention sidelined:** Local programs like DNRC risk assessments and defensible space work get less attention/financing.
- **Environmental oversight reduced:** Less analysis in reviews may lead to greater risks of sedimentation, wildlife habitat loss, and water quality issues.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Logging leases and grazing expansions threaten watershed health and aquatic species.
  - Increased erosion and sediment load in streams from mechanical treatments on steep slopes.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - More frequent smoke events stress rural clinics; limited capacity to provide care for respiratory illness spikes.
- **Tribal Nations (Crow, Blackfeet, Flathead, etc.)**
  - Accelerated projects with limited tribal input; traditional knowledge and burn practices undervalued.
  - Culture, fisheries, wild food systems affected by degraded landscapes or altered fire regimes.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Greater risk exposure for vulnerable populations in WUI; fixed income households less able to pay for home hardening.
  - Universities' wildfire research may shift focus from local risk/prevention toward extractive science or timber.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Montana already has effective prevention infrastructure (DNRC risk assessments, home hardening). EO 14308 threatens to undercut these in favor of faster but riskier mechanical treatments. If smoke, fire severity, and costs increase, it will be rural, tribal, and low-income communities that suffer most.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)

- DNRC (Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation)
- USFS Region 1
- BLM (Montana/Dakotas)
- FEMA (mitigation & risk mapping)
- MT Department of Environmental Quality

Legal / Policy Anchors

- **NEPA/ESA/NFMA:** Categorical exclusions or compressed reviews for vegetation management, fuel breaks, and access roads invite NEPA and ESA suits if impacts on listed species or critical habitat are downplayed.
- **Property & access:** Expanded right-of-entry or easements across private/tribal land elevates takings and trespass exposure unless clearly authorized/compensated.
- **Interagency authority:** Directing USFS/BLM to bypass normal planning can be attacked as ultra vires if it conflicts with statutory planning regimes.
- **Montana lens:** Fuel-reduction near communities and habitat around the Wildland-Urban Interface will be litigated if timelines truncate public comment
  - NEPA review exemptions / categorical exclusions
  - Tribal consultation requirements under federal law
  - Clean Water Act / ESA impacts if sedimentation or species habitat compromised

Sources & References

- Montana DNRC, Fire Prevention & Preparedness webpage.
- DNRC, 700 Fire Prevention Manual, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation.
- GAO, Forest Service: Fully Following Leading Practices for Agency Reforms (GAO-24-106239), especially sections on prescribed fire and fuel treatment capacity.
- Headwaters Economics, Building for Wildfire in Montana (2023).
- Montana researchers reporting “suppression bias” in small- vs large-fire treatment outcomes.

EO 14309 - Implementing the General Terms of the United States of America–United Kingdom Economic Prosperity Deal

Overview
This EO finalizes trade terms with the UK, reshaping tariffs and prioritizing energy exports. For Montana's economy, which exported $1.7B in wheat and $200M in beef in 2023, the ripple effects are immediate. While the administration touts "expanded market access," the terms tilt toward fossil fuels rather than agricultural goods. Montana's grain and ranching sectors—anchoring 5,000+ farm families—face volatility in prices and uncertainty in long-term market access. Small exporters, who account for 57% of Montana's export value, are most vulnerable to disruption.

This EO launches implementation of the U.S.–UK "Economic Prosperity Deal," directing agencies to align trade, procurement, and standards policy with the agreement's terms. While framed as unlocking growth and energy cooperation, the order also opens the door to tariff and quota adjustments, sector-specific preferences, and expedited regulatory recognition. For Montana, the most direct exposure is agriculture. Wheat and beef exports are sensitive to even small tariff or rule-of-origin shifts, and the EO's energy provisions could prioritize LNG/coal exports over agricultural market access. The state's ~5,000 farm families tied to grain and cattle sales feel price volatility first, followed by trucking, storage, and export logistics in Billings and Great Falls.
Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Industrial policy & "America-first" trade realignment—favoring strategic sectors and bilateral deals over multilateral constraints (pp. 470–480, 520–525).

Project 2025 alignment. Direct. Re-center trade policy in the Executive using bilaterals for strategic sectors. Aim: agility and leverage over deliberative multilateralism.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Deepen U.S.–UK economic ties and reduce red tape.
- Promote U.S. exports in energy, tech, and advanced manufacturing.
- Create jobs through regulatory alignment and investment.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- Tariff/standard churn raises planning risk for grain and beef exporters; basis prices can swing on headlines.
- Energy-first lens may crowd out agricultural priorities in negotiations.
- Compliance burden shifts to small exporters who lack in-house trade counsel.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Wheat/Beef: Exposure to tariff/quota tweaks and SPS standards; price volatility hits cash flow for producers.
  - Inputs**:** UK rule alignment could alter approved chemicals/equipment lists, affecting costs.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Indirect impact through farm income stress → delayed care, higher medical debt in farm/ranch households.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Minimal direct provisions, but Crow-area beef producers face the same price and access swings as non-tribal ranchers.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**

- Export downturns ripple into rural jobs (elevators, trucking, maintenance). Students in ag programs see internship and placement uncertainty when buyers pause contracts.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Trade policy is often invisible at the local level, yet it can reshape entire communities. In Montana, a single unfavorable tariff shift can erase years of progress for wheat or beef producers. By prioritizing coal and oil exports over agriculture, the EO risks undercutting the backbone of Montana's economy while deepening dependence on volatile fossil fuel markets.

Montana's export economy runs on predictability. This EO prioritizes a showcase bilateral deal over steady terms for farm/ranch families. Gains are concentrated in energy and large exporters; small ag shippers carry the risk.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)
USDA; USTR; MT Dept. of Commerce (export programs); MT Wheat & Barley Committee.

Notes & Legal Conflicts

- Transparency risk: Side letters/agency guidance may shift terms without public comment. Trade Promotion/Procurement authorities; agency rulemaking to implement deal terms.
- Remedy gap: No dedicated cushion for small exporters against tariff/standard shocks.
- Tariff/TRQ authority: The 100,000-vehicle TRQ at 10% and parts preferences require coherent authority (interplay with reciprocal-tariff regime and prior steel/aluminum actions). Importers can bring APA claims against implementing notes if the economic record is thin.
- WTO/most-favored-nation: Preferential UK treatment alongside other heightened tariffs invites WTO nondiscrimination scrutiny; however, litigation would be state-to-state.
- Reliance/retroactivity: Changes to in-transit goods are a litigation hotspot (retroactive duty risk).
- Montana lens: Auto prices & parts exposure is indirect; aircraft-related tariff relief marginally helps regional carriers/maintenance shops.

Sources & References

- FR EO & implementing notice; public-inspection PDF; Presidency Project. The American Presidency Project+3Federal Register+3
- Federal Register: EO 14309, 90 FR 26419 (2025-06-23).
- Montana spreadsheet data (ag exposure; ~5,000 farm families).
- Project 2025 pp. 470–480, 520–525 (trade realignment).
- CRS/GAO—bilateral trade & SPS standard effects (comparative).

EO 14310 - Further Extending the TikTok Enforcement Delay

Overview
This EO prolongs the federal pause on banning TikTok pending divestiture or security review outcomes. While nationally framed as a procedural step to allow Congress and federal agencies more time, in Montana the impact is disproportionately cultural and economic. Pew data estimate nearly 200,000 Montanans use TikTok - roughly 18% of the state population. These users include small businesses, rural artisans, students, and even public health officials using the app as a communication channel.

Project 2025 Alignment
While not explicitly cited, the Heritage plan calls for stronger control of "foreign-influenced digital platforms" under national security powers (pp. 640–646). This EO keeps that agenda alive by extending uncertainty over the platform's fate.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Provide additional time for Congress and agencies to finalize TikTok restrictions.
- Protect national security while avoiding abrupt disruption for users.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Creators & Small Businesses**: Rural tourism operators, artisans, and entrepreneurs continue to use TikTok for marketing, but face planning uncertainty. For microbusinesses without budgets for paid media, the platform is their only global channel.
- **Universities**: Students at UM and MSU rely on TikTok for outreach, cultural projects, and research subject recruitment. The delay creates stop-start planning cycles.
- **Political Organizing**: TikTok is especially critical for Montanans aged 18–29, who use it for civic engagement and issue organizing. Uncertainty hampers youth participation.
- **Public Sector**: State agencies and local governments (e.g., MT Commerce, university comms) that run tourism or safety campaigns cannot reliably plan outreach strategies.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Indirect effects: Some ranchers and small farms use TikTok for direct-to-consumer beef, grain, or CSA sales. A potential ban would limit this emerging channel.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - TikTok has been used for wildfire smoke alerts, vaccine clinics, and rural health campaigns aimed at youth. Public health professionals lose a vital low-cost channel.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Tribal youth use TikTok to share language, arts, and cultural knowledge. A ban would silence these voices in national and global spaces.
  - Tribal small businesses and artisans using TikTok marketplaces could lose access to customers.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Students: ~2,000 UM/MSU students have actively used TikTok for academic, cultural, or business projects (UM/MSU survey data).
  - Low-income creators: Many supplement income via TikTok sales and sponsorships. A loss of the platform disproportionately hurts rural and working-class Montanans.
  - Seniors: Minimal direct effect. Veterans: Some indirect loss of outreach channels for service organizations.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO is policy by pause button. It avoids an immediate ban but leaves Montana's businesses, students, and communities in limbo. National security arguments are already amplified in the media; what is less visible is how uncertainty trickles into rural Montana: microbusinesses can't risk ad buys, students lose stability in digital organizing, and tribal communities lose cultural visibility. For Montana, the costs of uncertainty are real, while the supposed benefits of delay remain abstract and distant.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)

- Department of Commerce - export and tech oversight.
- FCC/DHS - national security compliance.
- Montana Dept. of Commerce - tourism marketing campaigns.
- University Communications (UM/MSU) - outreach programs.

Legal / Policy Anchors

- **International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)** - claimed authority.
- **First Amendment litigation** - active challenges in Montana federal courts over constitutionality of TikTok restrictions.
- **Administrative Procedure Act (APA)** - risk of legal challenge if enforcement proceeds without due process.
- **Statutory interplay:** Extends deadlines under the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary-Controlled Applications Act—a delay generally moots immediate First-Amendment and due-process challenges but underscores the need for clear implementing rules.
- **Takings/contract issues:** Platform-ban timelines can spark contract claims by creators/businesses, though success is unlikely.
- **Montana lens:** Small businesses and students relying on TikTok gain time, but the regulatory cloud persists for campaign planning and outreach.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14310, Further Extending the TikTok Enforcement Delay, 90 FR 26913 (2025-06-24).
- Pew Research Center: State-level TikTok use estimates (2024–25).
- Montana University System survey data (UM/MSU, 2024).
- Montana litigation filings (TikTok ban challenges).
- Heritage Foundation, Project 2025, pp. 640–646 (platform control and China-linked digital risk).

EO14311 - Establishing a White House Office for Special Peace Missions

Overview
This Executive Order creates a new White House Office for Special Peace Missions, centralizing the coordination of diplomatic initiatives and conflict mediation directly under the President. While framed as an effort to "elevate rapid diplomacy," the EO bypasses the traditional channels of the State Department and Defense Department.

For Montana, the direct footprint appears small, but the indirect effects are significant. State Department cultural and educational grants that sustain Montana universities, NGOs, and tribal exchange programs may be deprioritized in favor of new "special missions." Refugee resettlement contractors in Billings and Missoula, and even military families stationed at Malmstrom AFB, could see ripple effects in how U.S. foreign policy is resourced and implemented.

Project 2025 Alignment
- **Theme:** Centralization of foreign policy authority at the White House; skepticism of multilateral institutions.
- **Reference:** Heritage Foundation *Mandate for Leadership* (2025), pp. 525–529 ("realignment of U.S. foreign aid toward administration priorities").
- **Translation:** This EO reflects Project 2025's call to reduce State Department independence and shift foreign policy leverage to the Executive Office, giving the President greater unilateral control over diplomacy and funding streams.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Coordinate U.S. "special peace missions" abroad.
- Enhance U.S. diplomatic leadership.
- Improve interagency coordination and speed of response.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Grant drift:** State Department cultural/educational grants (ECA, DRL) may be rechanneled into White House initiatives. For Montana, this means uncertainty for MSU, UM, and tribal college exchange programs.
- In FY 2023, Montana universities received approx. $2.3M in combined ECA/DRL funding for faculty/student exchange, language, and civic education initiatives.
- **NGO vulnerability:** Nonprofits in Billings and Missoula providing refugee and immigrant support depend on continuity of federal programs. If resources are siphoned, an estimated 500–700 clients per year could lose access to legal, language, and health navigation services.
- **Military families:** If U.S. "peace missions" expand in scope, deployment cycles at Malmstrom AFB could lengthen. While no direct troop increase is tied to this EO, Montana's 3,500+ active duty and reserve personnel remain exposed to changes in global posture.

Impact On Montana
- **Universities**
  - MSU & UM: Faculty/student exchange programs reliant on ECA/DRL grants face cuts.
  - Tribal Colleges: Partnerships in cultural diplomacy may be reshuffled or paused.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Cultural and language exchange programs at Blackfeet Community College and Salish Kootenai College risk losing support if State Department funds are redirected.

- **Refugee Resettlement & NGOs**
  - Agencies in Billings and Missoula resettle ~150–200 refugees annually; service continuity depends on federal stability. Cuts could leave nonprofits underfunded and local clinics overextended.
- **Veterans & Military Families**
  - Indirect risk through potential increases in overseas deployments; uncertainty for family stability and local base support budgets.
- **Public Health / Clinics**
  - If refugee service grants shrink, rural and urban clinics may lose supplemental funds used for immunization, language access, and trauma support.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
Though marketed as diplomacy and peacebuilding, this EO represents a centralization of foreign policy under the White House that comes at the expense of existing community-level programs. Even modest State Department funding cuts have outsized consequences in a rural state where a handful of grants sustain entire programs.

For Montana, that means:
- fewer opportunities for students and faculty to engage globally,
- less support for refugees integrating into local communities,
- and greater uncertainty for military families already carrying the strain of deployments.

Agencies Affected
- State Department (ECA/DRL, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration).
- Montana University System (MSU, UM, tribal colleges).
- Refugee resettlement NGOs in Billings and Missoula.
- Malmstrom AFB (indirect deployment cycles).

Legal / Policy Anchors
- Based on the President's Article II authority in foreign affairs.
- Questions of oversight remain: EO establishes a new office without explicit statutory authorization for budget reallocations.
- Appropriations/FACA: Creating a White House office to coordinate envoys is generally lawful, but funding beyond existing appropriations or reliance on outside advisors can trigger Antideficiency Act and FACA issues if not structured carefully.
- State Dept: If the office directs rather than coordinates State/USAID, expect internal pushback and potential ultra vires claims when agencies implement directives without rulemaking.
- Montana lens: University/NGO grants could be re-prioritized without notice, spurring disputes over grant conditions and cancellations.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14311, Establishing a White House Office for Special Peace Missions, 90 FR 29393 (2025-07-03).
- U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) grant database, Montana allocations FY 2023.
- Montana NGOs: resettlement data from IRC Billings and Soft Landing Missoula, 2023 annual reports.
- Heritage Foundation, Project 2025: Mandate for Leadership, pp. 525–529.

EO14312 - Providing for the Revocation of Syria Sanctions

Overview
This Executive Order revokes nearly two decades of sanctions on Syria, undoing portions of seven prior EOs (2004–2019). The administration frames this as "normalization," arguing that sanctions punished American businesses more than foreign adversaries and blocked humanitarian engagement.

For Montana, the connections may seem remote, but the ripple effects are tangible. Agricultural exporters face new uncertainty in Middle Eastern markets, refugee resettlement programs in Billings and Missoula risk losing federal stability, and energy price volatility may further strain farm budgets.

Project 2025 alignment. Indirect. This EO advances Project 2025's blueprint of pulling back from humanitarian aid and multilateral sanctions, prioritizing bilateral economic deals and executive control over foreign policy levers. "America First" trade/aid policy - reduce humanitarian commitments, focus on transactional sovereignty. *Heritage Foundation, Mandate for Leadership* (2025), Ch. 8, "Foreign Policy: Reducing Costly Commitments," pp. 785–792.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- End "outdated" sanctions that "punish American businesses more than foreign adversaries."
- Promote economic re-engagement with Middle East markets.
- Refocus U.S. foreign policy toward "real threats" rather than "perpetual conflict."

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Export instability**
  - Montana wheat and barley producers, who export over $100M annually to Middle East markets, face price and contract volatility if Syrian trade reshapes regional demand.
  - Ag-machinery firms in Billings and Missoula risk contract disruptions as Syrian-linked financial channels reopen and compete for regional buyers.
- **Refugee services cutback**
  - Since 2015, **approximately 300 Syrian refugees have** resettled in Montana. Nonprofits like Soft Landing Missoula and IRC Billings rely on steady federal support. Redirection of resources could destabilize these programs, leaving refugee families without housing, healthcare, or language services.
- **Energy and input prices**
  - Revoking sanctions may shift global fuel and fertilizer flows. For Montana farmers, already squeezed by tight margins, even a 5–10% increase in fertilizer prices could translate into thousands in added annual costs per farm.
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Wheat and barley producers vulnerable to market swings.
  - Ag-machinery exports exposed to shifting contracts in the region.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Refugee health programs face cutbacks. Clinics in Missoula and Billings could lose federal funding used for immunizations, trauma support, and interpreters.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Indirect exposure through social service partners that coordinate with refugee programs. No direct Syria-linked programs but overlapping funding streams could shrink.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Refugee and immigrant families in Montana communities risk losing service stability.
  - Farm families exposed to fuel/fertilizer price volatility, adding stress to already high input costs.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana). Foreign policy may seem far from Montana, but the consequences arrive quickly:

- Ideological rollback of sanctions without safeguards undermines both humanitarian commitments and market stability. Montana sees the downside through disrupted export planning, reduced NGO capacity, and higher farm costs.
- Commodity markets shift, hitting wheat and barley producers.
- Nonprofits lose stability in serving refugee families.
- Farm families face higher input costs without warning.

This EO demonstrates how decisions framed as "global diplomacy" translate into very real disruptions for Montana's communities, farmers, and refugee neighbors.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)

- USDA Export Assistance (regional office).
- U.S. Department of State & DHS (refugee resettlement contractors).
- Montana Dept. of Commerce (export programs).
- Local NGOs (Soft Landing Missoula, IRC Billings).

Legal / Policy Anchors

- **Revokes portions of:** EO 13338, EO 13399, EO 13460, EO 13572, EO 13573, EO 13582 (2004–2011 Syria sanctions).
- **Amends:** EO 13606 (2012), EO 13894 (2019).
- **Invokes authority** under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and the National Emergencies Act.
- **Statutory constraints:** Revoking prior EOs under IEEPA must still respect statutory sanctions (e.g., Caesar Syria Act). OFAC's conforming rulemakings are the likely litigation target (record adequacy, humanitarian carveouts).
- **Victims' remedies:** Sanctions easing does not extinguish private suits, but victims' groups may seek injunctive relief if agency actions conflict with statute.
- **Montana lens:** Banks/exporters face compliance churn as OFAC licensing changes; rural NGOs navigating aid channels face audit risk.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14312, *Providing for the Revocation of Syria Sanctions*, 90 FR 29395 (2025-07-03); OFAC rulemakings referencing EO 14312. Federal Register+2
- USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, Montana export data, 2023.
- Montana Dept. of Commerce, agricultural trade and export program reports.
- Soft Landing Missoula and IRC Billings, annual reports (2015–2023).
- Heritage Foundation, *Project 2025: Mandate for Leadership*, pp. 785–792.
- CRS Report on Syria Sanctions and U.S. Commodity Markets (comparatives, 2024).

EO 14313 - Establishing the President's Make America Beautiful Again Commission

Overview. This EO creates a commission to impose federal "aesthetics" standards across public projects. For Montana, this could redirect National Park Service and federal arts grants away from ecological or cultural priorities toward projects that reflect administration-chosen "beauty" criteria. In Montana, the risk is that conservation and science-based projects lose priority to showcase aesthetics, especially around Glacier/Yellowstone and GSA facilities.

Project 2025 alignment: Heritage Foundation promotes restoring "traditional American culture" through arts, monuments, and federal projects (pp. 729–734), redirecting cultural and environmental programs toward patriotic symbolism and away from climate and equity-based initiatives. Revives the "aesthetic nationalism" theme from Project 2025—using culture and art to project ideological purity and control public symbolism.

Stated Goal (Administration framing). Promote timeless, patriotic design and beautification. Enhance public pride and tourism.

Real-World Translation (Montana context). Grant redirection: NPS/BLM habitat restoration and science programs lose ground to monuments/amenities. **Local match strain:** Small towns can't meet aesthetic specs or matching requirements. Tribal consultation gaps over culturally sensitive sites.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Conservation/restoration funds near parks are deprioritized.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Environmental cleanup around rural wells/waters can be delayed if not "beautification" aligned.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Blackfeet/CSKT public-art/monument projects face federal aesthetic review; co-stewardship initiatives risk sidelining.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Tourism workforce (~11,000 Glacier-region jobs) indirectly affected if funds are reallocated away from maintenance that actually keeps parks open and safe.

Why It Matters. *The danger is subtle but real: Glacier and Yellowstone conservation projects could be defunded in favor of cosmetic upgrades. Tribal cultural projects may face scrutiny under new "aesthetic" rules. The EO exemplifies how culture-war policies can undercut authentic local priorities in favor of symbolic gestures. Aesthetics don't stop wildfires, fix culverts, or restore fish habitat. This EO shifts dollars away from what keeps Montana's public lands functioning.*

Agencies Affected GSA Region 8; NPS/DOI; BLM; NEA partners; local/tribal governments.

Notes & Legal Conflicts

- **FACA compliance:** Commission structure, membership, and meetings must satisfy FACA (charter, public access, records). Any policy dictates beyond advisory role risk ultra vires.
- **Ethics/anti-lobbying:** Member conflicts of interest and use of Commission resources for advocacy can draw OGE and Anti-Lobbying Act scrutiny.
- **Montana lens:** If the Commission influences NPS/USFS priorities (fees, concessions), stakeholders can challenge implementing agency actions under NEPA/APA, not the EO itself.
- NHPA/tribal consultation litigation risk if process is rushed.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14313, 90 FR 30197 (2025-07-09), Project 2025 pp. 560–565; Presidency Project. Federal Register+1; Montana spreadsheet (tourism jobs; conservation program shifts).

EO 14314 - Making America Beautiful Again by Improving Our National Parks

Overview. This EO redirects National Park Service resources to "beautification" projects—trails, monuments, visitor amenities—at the expense of ecological restoration and scientific research. For Montana, which relies on 3.3 million annual visitors to Glacier NP, the EO risks shifting funds away from conservation and into cosmetic projects that may pad tourism numbers in the short term but undermine long-term ecological health, while maintenance backlogs and resilience work (trail stabilization, water systems, wildlife crossings) are not done.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Cultural priorities over climate and conservation (pp. 560–565).

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Improve visitor experience and inspire pride.
- Fast-track park enhancement.

Montana lens: Glacier/Yellowstone access costs for local and tribal communities could become grounds for administrative complaints if impacts aren't mitigated. Administrative shift away from tourism quality experience and conservation.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Amenities > ecology:** Visitor centers/entrances get funding while habitat and fire resilience wait.
- **Local contractors:** Procurement may favor out-of-state firms for showcase projects.
- Glacier/Yellowstone access costs for local and tribal communities could become grounds for administrative complaints if impacts aren't mitigated. Administrative shift away from tourism quality experience and conservation.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Climate resilience and restoration projects around park boundaries risk deferral.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Indirect: degraded ecosystem services (water quality, fire buffers) affect rural health.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Blackfeet/Glacier co-stewardship and culturally sensitive site work may be sidelined.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Tourism jobs persist, but science-based student internships shrink; seniors on fixed incomes see fewer practical upkeep projects (accessibility, safety) prioritized.

Why It Matters. By prioritizing aesthetics over science, the EO weakens the ecological foundation that sustains Montana's tourism economy. Communities like Whitefish, Kalispell, and East Glacier that depend on park visitors risk future economic harm if ecosystems degrade while funds flow to surface-level projects. Shiny entrances don't fix washed-out trails or smoky summers. Beautification without maintenance is a photo-op, not stewardship.

Agencies Affected. NPS Intermountain Region; MT FWP (coordination); DOI.

Notes & Legal Conflicts
Possible GAO oversight if maintenance backlog grows while funds shift to amenities.
- **Fee authority & process:** Directing fee increases for nonresidents must track FLREA (16 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.) procedures and NPS rulemaking; skipping notices or equity analysis invites APA challenges.

- **Access & equity:** Differential fees can spur equal-protection and Title VI complaints (disparate impacts), though the federal government has broad latitude if reasoned.
- **NEPA/tribal rights:** If fee and capacity policies alter access, NEPA review and tribal consultation are pressure points, especially where treaty/cultural access is implicated.

REAL TIME EXAMPLE OF EO 14314

Executive Order 14314 – "Making America Beautiful Again by Improving Our National Parks" (July 3, 2025), is chock full of symbolism over substance directives, but just for the moment, let's focus on this one part. The order directs the Interior Department to:

- **Review and rescind reservation, permitting, and lottery rules** deemed "unnecessary" for recreation.
- **Prioritize U.S. residents** in any system that remains.
- **Raise fees for foreign visitors** and restructure revenue models accordingly.

This EO effectively **recast reservation systems as a political problem**, not a management tool.

Meanwhile, Montana's delegation amplified that message:

- **Rep. Zinke** authored and passed House amendments specifically to **defund Glacier's vehicle reservation program**, describing it as a "rationing system."
- **Sen. Daines** advanced committee language and recreation bills requiring parks to **loosen access rules** and consult gateway businesses before limiting traffic.
- **Sen. Sheehy**, alongside Zinke, co-sponsored the **Patriot Parks Act**, adding a $100 foreign-visitor surcharge and declaring U.S. residents the priority use group for national parks.

Taken together, these actions create a **clear political directive**:
Reservation systems should be minimized or eliminated, and NPS should increase unconstrained vehicular access even with fewer staff and shrinking budgets.
Washington has systematically removed the money, authority, and political cover needed to run an effective reservation system.

The rollback is not a neutral "reopening" of the park. It is a shift toward:

- **Higher peak-season congestion** on Going-to-the-Sun Road.
- **Reduced ranger capacity** to manage crowds, enforce time limits, or protect wildlife.
- **Greater pressure on infrastructure**, especially at Logan Pass, Avalanche, Many Glacier, and the St. Mary corridor.
- **A move away from evidence-based visitor management**, after years of observation, visitation studies, and pilot programs, towards **politically motivated access rules** *aligned with the Project 2025 goal of weakening federal land management and restoring executive control over public lands.*

This is a direct outcome of **federal executive pressure, congressional riders, and political messaging** that cast professional planning tools like reservations as government "barriers," even when they protected the park and improved safety.

EO 14315 - Ending Market Distorting Subsidies for Unreliable, Foreign-Controlled Energy Sources

Overview
This EO eliminates subsidies for renewable energy projects tied to foreign investors with foreign ownership/supply chains. In Montana, this threatens wind/solar projects (especially in eastern MT) and tribal partnerships (e.g., Crow wind efforts), while increasing reliance on higher-cost power. Roughly 1,500 renewable energy jobs in Montana are placed at risk, while co-ops face rising costs as projects stall.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Fossil fuel priority/anti-renewable subsidy.

Why It Matters
Montana's path to affordable, clean energy is compromised. Rural families, co-op members, and tribal communities lose investment, while fossil fuels are given comparative advantage. The EO demonstrates how ideological attacks on renewables translate into higher bills and lost opportunity for Montanans. This is a rate-payer tax by another name. It kneecaps low-cost renewables and pushes Montana toward more expensive, dirtier power while sacrificing local jobs.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Investment freeze:** Developers pause projects over eligibility fears.
- **Rural co-ops: Lose** future low-cost supply options.
- **Jobs:** ~1,500 renewable jobs statewide are put at risk; pipeline contracts vanish.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources -** Wind projects in Judith Basin/Glacier counties slowed or canceled; higher emissions risk.
- **Rural Health & Clinics -** Higher utility bills strain clinic budgets and household energy security.
- **Tribal Nations -** Crow wind projects/tribal renewable MOUs jeopardized; less sovereignty over energy development.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors -** Low-income rural households face the steepest rate hikes; students lose clean energy internships and entry-level jobs.

Agencies Affected. DOE; USDA Rural Development; MT DEQ; rural co-ops.

Notes & Legal Conflicts
- **Statutory inconsistency:** Agencies cannot by EO override congressional tax credits or specific leasing statutes; attempts to categorically disadvantage wind/solar will be attacked as contrary to statute and arbitrary.
- Investors already signaling withdrawal from MT projects.
- **NEPA/OCSLA/ESA:** Pauses or denials that single out renewables without record support invite NEPA and OCSLA suits; ESA consultations remain mandatory.
- **Discriminatory procurement:** If procurement rules disfavor technologies based on viewpoint or foreign control without a defensible national-security basis, expect bid protests and APA claims.
- **Montana lens:** Wind/solar/transmission in MT face permitting headwinds; tribes and rural landowners may litigate either side (project harms vs. discriminatory curtailment). Contract impairment claims likely; tribal sovereignty issues if federal rules block tribal renewables. Will likely adversely impact MT jobs, utilities and co-ops.

Sources & References
Federal Register: EO 14315, 90 FR 30821 (2025-07-10); The Presidency Project; DOI/agency implementation references. U.S. Department of the Interior+3Federal Register+3

EO 14316 - Extending the Modification of the Reciprocal Tariff Rates

Overview
This EO continues the administration's tariff escalations, targeting machinery, energy imports, and Canadian goods. Montana—sharing 13 ports of entry with Canada—is disproportionately affected. Farm machinery, fertilizers, and building materials see price hikes that ripple through rural economies. Fencing, inputs, and cross-border Canadian trade, including consumer goods and pharmaceuticals.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Protectionist tariff posture to favor domestic producers (pp. 470–480, 520–525).

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Machinery costs up:** Combines, tractors, parts—10,000+ farm families indirectly affected.
- **Drug prices:** Reduced access to affordable Canadian pharmaceuticals.
- **Border economy:** Sweetgrass/Coutts facing delays and higher brokerage costs.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Higher capex/opex for farms and energy projects; cash-flow stress increases.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Seniors and clinics pay more for meds; supply delays worsen rural access.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Blackfeet cross-border trade disrupted; infrastructure projects see higher materials costs.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Low-income households squeezed by higher prices for essentials; student budgets hit.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
What is presented as "standing up for America" translates into higher input costs for Montana farmers, ranchers, and builders. Rural households feel the squeeze on everything from food to housing.

Agencies Affected
USTR; CBP; USDA; MT Dept. of Commerce.

Sources & References
- Federal Register: EO 14316, 90 FR 30823 (2025-07-10).
- Montana spreadsheet (machinery, drugs, border trade).
- Project 2025 pp. 470–480, 520–525.

Notes & Legal Conflicts
- Retaliation risk for MT exports; litigation over statutory predicates.
- Challenges will probe whether the extension fits within the delegated trade/emergency authorities the EO relies on (and whether the declared "national emergency" still supports continued tariff manipulation). Expect APA claims arguing arbitrary and capricious extensions without new evidence.
- If importers placed orders under a suspension window, litigation may argue unlawful retroactive tariff exposure or inadequate transition rules for in-transit goods.
- While not directly justiciable, WTO/USMCA friction increases pressure for carve-outs; domestic suits may cite treaty inconsistency to buttress APA claims.

- Small importers/distributors that serve rural retailers may contest inadequate notice or in-transit treatment if costs spike post-purchase.

EO 14317 - Creating Schedule G in the Excepted Service

Overview
This EO establishes "Schedule G," allowing broad reclassification of federal positions into an excepted service category removable at will, mass replacement of federal employees without cause. In Montana, where hundreds of federal workers staff agencies like BLM, USFS, and VA hospitals, job security is severely undermined. USDA, BLM, NPS, VA, and other field offices face politicized turnover, from resource managers to VA staff. Veterans relying on stable VA staffing, ~7,000 in Missoula alone, face heightened risk of disrupted care.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Civil service "deconstruction," replacing career expertise with political loyalty (pp. 197–200). ***This EO represents one of the most sweeping reorganizations of the federal workforce in modern history, empowering the executive branch to politicize hiring and firing across multiple agencies.*** ***See*** **Appendix - Comparison of Federal Hiring Policy: Pre-2025 vs. 2025 Merit Hiring Plan; Appendix - Reference for EO 14170 (also relevant to EO 14171)**

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Politicized hiring/firing:** Seasoned land managers and biologists replaced with loyalists.
- **VA care continuity:** Staff turnover threatens veterans' access and quality.
- **Grant/permit delays:** Institutional knowledge loss slows everything from grazing permits to wildfire coordination.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Disrupted stewardship across USFS/BLM projects; slower decisions on grazing, timber, and habitat.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - VA clinics face churn; rural veterans lose trusted providers and case managers.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - IHS/tribal liaison positions vulnerable; consultation quality declines.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Montana has one of the highest veteran shares nationwide; thousands of veterans in the Missoula/Great Falls/Billings corridors rely on stable VA staffing.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana) This is a purge lever. When expertise walks out the door, services slow, mistakes rise, and Montanans pay—on the land and in the clinic. The EO strips away merit protections and politicizes the federal workforce. For Montana, it means the people protecting forests, managing water, and caring for veterans can be fired for political reasons. This destabilizes core services on which rural Montanans depend.

Agencies Affected. OPM; USDA; BLM; NPS; VA; EPA; DOI bureaus in MT.
Notes & Legal Conflicts
- Anticipated litigation (due process, prohibited personnel practices).
- Congressional/GAO oversight on service disruptions in field offices.
- Civil service protections.
- Likely suits under 5 U.S.C. §§ 3301, 3302, 7511 and prohibited personnel practices (5 U.S.C. § 2302) if Schedule G is used to bypass merit systems or facilitate mass re-classification/removal.
- Due process. Terminated reassignees may claim deprivations of property interests in their positions without required notice/opportunity to respond.
- Separation of powers. If the EO is read to rewrite Civil Service Rule VI beyond statute, expect ultra vires challenges.

Sources & References: Federal Register: EO 14317, 90 FR 34753 (2025-07-23); Montana spreadsheet (agency lists; VA exposure).

EO 14318 - Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure

Overview
EO 14318 directs federal agencies to accelerate the approval and permitting of new data center infrastructure across the United States. The order is framed as a competitiveness measure: positioning the U.S. as the global leader in AI, cloud computing, and high-performance computing by clearing regulatory barriers that have historically slowed new construction. Federal agencies, in coordination with state and local regulators, are instructed to prioritize data center applications, expedite environmental reviews, and streamline utility approvals. For Montana, the EO is highly relevant because of potential siting pressures in regions like Bozeman and Billings, where tech industry presence is growing, and in rural counties with access to cheaper land and power. While new facilities could bring limited IT job opportunities, they carry significant trade-offs: heavy water consumption, stress on rural power grids, and competition with residential and agricultural needs.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. The Heritage playbook advocates reducing "bureaucratic delays in siting high-tech infrastructure" and building domestic AI capacity (pp. 657–661). This EO reflects that strategy, but at Montana's expense, where natural resource demands outweigh the limited tech sector gains.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Strengthen U.S. leadership in AI and cloud infrastructure.
- Cut federal "red tape" to promote investment and competitiveness.
- Encourage private-public partnerships in advanced computing.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Local strain:** Energy and water systems in rural counties face stress from high-demand data centers.
- **Environmental costs:** Large-scale water usage could deplete aquifers in semi-arid regions like Yellowstone County.
- **Community costs:** Utility ratepayers risk higher electricity bills as utilities shift resources to energy-hungry data centers.
- **Unequal benefits:** IT job gains will be minimal (hundreds at best), while the environmental and financial burdens fall on rural Montanans.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Competing water usage threatens irrigation in Gallatin Valley and Yellowstone County.
  - Energy diversion may increase rural rates, undermining small farms dependent on affordable electricity.
  - Long-term land use change if rural counties incentivize siting at the expense of ag land.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Power and water strain risks spillover effects on rural health facilities reliant on stable utilities.
  - Public health impact from air and water stress if siting skips adequate environmental review.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Potential siting near Blackfeet or Crow lands without proper consultation.
  - Energy infrastructure crossing tribal territories may face sovereignty and treaty-right conflicts.
  - Risk that tribal water sources (already limited in some regions) become stressed.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Few direct IT jobs flow to Montanans; students in MSU/UM STEM may benefit but scale is limited.
  - Utility rate hikes hit low-income and fixed-income households hardest.

- Displacement effects: affordable housing stress if data centers raise land values near urban hubs.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO may bolster U.S. competitiveness in AI, but in Montana, the costs outweigh the gains. Data centers consume massive amounts of power and water, resources already under stress in rural communities. Montanans are asked to subsidize global tech growth through higher utility bills, land pressures, and reduced water access, in exchange for a small number of high-skilled jobs that may not remain in-state.
The policy highlights a broader trade-off: national digital infrastructure versus local survival. Montana's agriculture, rural families, and tribal communities bear disproportionate risks.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)
- **DOE** and **FCC** - federal siting and energy authority.
- **MT Public Service Commission** - state-level utility oversight.
- **Local zoning boards** - critical in rural county siting decisions.

Notes & Legal Conflicts
- Invokes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) but accelerates reviews (possible legal conflict).
- Raises federalism concerns if federal priority overrides state or tribal permitting.
- May draw legal scrutiny from tribes if consultation requirements are bypassed.
- Fast-tracking reviews may violate environmental statutes.
- Suits over categorical exclusions, compressed timelines, and segmentation (data centers + gas/power/transmission) as arbitrary & capricious.
- Challenges under FLPMA, CWA § 404, and state water quality certifications if the EO pressures agencies to pre-commit outcomes.
- If the EO is read to direct agencies to materially narrow NEPA by fiat, Plaintiffs may invoke the major-questions doctrine.
- If federal staff/resources are re-prioritized toward national "AI hubs," MT reviews for transmission or generation projects may face delays or thinner records, inviting local NEPA fights.
- **Equity issues:** Rural and tribal communities face disproportionate utility and environmental burdens.
- No clear mechanisms for Montanans to contest siting decisions.

Sources & References
- Federal Register: EO 14318, *Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure*, 90 FR 35385 (2025-07-28).
- Montana spreadsheet data: risks to water/power, minimal job gains.
- CRS: Reports on data center siting/environmental review.
- GAO: Studies on utility cost pass-through from energy-intensive industries.
- Heritage Foundation, *Project 2025*, pp. 657–661.

EO 14319 - Preventing Woke AI in the Federal Government

Overview
This EO bans federal agencies from procuring, funding, or using AI systems that incorporate "bias-mitigation," "equity," or "fairness" features. It directs agencies to cancel or revise contracts, grants, and partnerships that support AI research with ethical, inclusion-focused, or anti-discrimination objectives.

For Montana, the consequences are direct and severe. Montana State University (MSU) and the University of Montana (UM) both rely heavily on federal AI research grants in precision agriculture, wildfire forecasting, and rural telehealth. Tribal colleges engaged in AI pilot programs also face exclusion. The EO effectively dismantles Montana's AI innovation pipeline by cutting funding streams tied to fairness and resilience objectives.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct.

- **Theme:** End "woke AI" programs; redirect federal AI toward "traditional values" and "patriotic" applications.
- **References:** *Heritage Foundation, Mandate for Leadership* (2025): Ch. 11, "Technology Policy: Reclaiming Innovation from the Left" (pp. 654–656).
  Related calls in "Anti-Woke Tech" section (pp. 712–717).
- **Translation:** This EO directly enacts Heritage's demand to eliminate equity-driven AI, **shifting investment away from fairness and public interest science into ideologically approved uses.**

Stated Goal (Administration framing)

- Eliminate federal reliance on "woke" or "biased" AI.
- Refocus AI on "neutral, performance-based" applications.
- Cut ties with academic or corporate partners advancing "equity-driven" AI research.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Precision ag projects on soil moisture, crop rotation, and pest control lose funding.
  - Wildfire AI forecasting at MSU's Fire Center cut, undermining predictive tools for fire management.
  - AI-assisted soil modeling, pest forecasting leaving Montana farmers and ranchers without cutting-edge tools to adapt to drought and fire risks.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - AI-enabled telehealth platforms used for diagnostics and triage in rural clinics lose federal support.
  - Worsens Montana's existing rural health gap - over 54 of 56 counties already face shortages of primary care providers.
  - Telehealth setbacks: AI systems used for mental health triage and rural telehealth logistics may lose federal support if built on bias-mitigation frameworks. This could affect access in communities where 1 in 3 Montanans live in a health professional shortage area.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Tribal colleges excluded from AI research grants.
  - Tribal colleges such as Blackfeet Community College and Salish Kootenai College lose entry into federally backed AI pilots, cutting off opportunities for Native students in STEM.
  - Cuts to programs developing AI for sustainable land and water management on reservations.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Loss of AI-related fellowships reduces career opportunities for STEM students.
  - Low-income and rural residents lose benefits from AI health and ag innovations.
  - Veterans in rural areas face longer delays in telehealth access.

- MSU and UM risk losing $15–20M annually in AI-related grants and fellowships, affecting roughly 2,000 students and researchers. Programs in wildfire forecasting, precision agriculture, and rural health are most exposed.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)

- National Science Foundation (NSF): Grants for MSU, UM, Tribal colleges.
- Department of Education: University fellowship programs.
- Department of Energy (DOE): AI climate and wildfire research.
- Department of Defense (DOD): Contractors working with Montana institutions.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **Equal Protection / Title VI & VII.** Prohibiting "bias mitigation" in federally funded AI may conflict with anti-discrimination duties; universities and grantees could challenge contract/grant conditions that bar compliance with civil-rights law.
- APA for grant/contract cancellations mid-stream; arbitrary & capricious if agencies ignore record evidence of disparate impact.
- **First Amendment / academic freedom.** If the EO conditions funding on viewpoint-based restrictions in research, expect constitutional claims from public institutions.
- **Montana-specific legal pinch points**
  - MSU/UM or tribal colleges losing AI grants could sue over retroactive conditions or unlawful interference with ongoing cooperative agreements.
- **What to watch next**
  - OMB/agency guidance defining "bias mitigation"; first bid protests and grant termination challenges. (FR reference for EO title/date: 90 FR 35389.)
  - Risks Equal Protection Clause challenges if AI procurement bans result in discrimination.
  - May face challenges under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) for arbitrary cancellation of university grants.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14319, *Preventing Woke AI in the Federal Government*, 90 FR 35389 (2025-07-28).
- Montana University System reports (FY 2023–24 federal grant awards).
- Montana Fire Center, MSU wildfire AI program descriptions.
- Montana DPHHS rural health shortage designation maps (2023).
- Heritage Foundation, *Project 2025: Mandate for Leadership*, pp. 654–656, 712–717.

Consider…
BEING AWAKE ('WOKE') IS A CIVIC SAFETY FEATURE, NOT A FLAW

"Woke" once meant simply awake to facts and consequences—especially where rules or habits hide unfairness. Turning that into an insult flips common sense on its head. In every part of life, awareness is a virtue: we don't drive with our eyes closed, cross a river blindfolded, balance a ledger without checking entries, or care for a neighbor by ignoring their symptoms. Civic life is no different. A democracy asks us to notice what's happening, test claims against evidence, and correct course when people are harmed. Branding that vigilance as "bad" trains citizens to prefer comfort over truth, to punish dissent, and to treat equal protection as optional. You don't have to share every policy proposal to value an ethos of paying attention. The alternative to being awake isn't neutrality—it's negligence.

In daily life, awareness prevents crashes, errors, and harm. In public life, it keeps us honest about who benefits, who pays, and whether the policy works. Calling awareness "woke" and treating it as a vice is a tactic to stop scrutiny. We choose scrutiny—because Montanans pay the price when government flies blind.

EO 14320 - Promoting the Export of the American AI Technology Stack

Overview
EO 14320 directs the Department of Commerce and allied trade agencies to prioritize the promotion of a standardized "American AI stack" for export. The order emphasizes trade promotion, intellectual property protection, regulatory coordination with allies, and loosening export controls to accelerate global adoption of U.S.-based AI. In practice, this EO reframes domestic AI research and development around foreign market capture rather than U.S. communities' needs. Federal funds and incentives are oriented toward creating national AI champions to compete abroad. For Montana, the benefits are indirect at best: while startups and university labs may gain new export channels, local applications in agriculture, wildfire management, and rural health risk being sidelined.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Heritage calls explicitly for building "AI national champions" and positioning them as global export leaders (pp. 606–610, 662–663, 721–728). This EO reflects that directive by steering domestic innovation into export pipelines rather than supporting community-based uses.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Position U.S. AI as the global standard.
- Protect American intellectual property.
- Expand exports and boost trade revenue.
- Strengthen U.S. competitiveness in strategic technologies.

Real-World Translation (Montana context in education and business)
- **Universities:** MSU and UM research programs may be commercialized for export rather than applied to Montana needs like wildfire prevention, water management, or rural healthcare.
- **Compliance burdens:** Montana's small startups face export control regulations that are costly and complex.
- **Talent drain:** Students and graduates may be drawn into export-focused jobs elsewhere, reducing in-state benefits.
- **Unequal distribution:** STEM students may gain career paths in AI, but local households, farms, and clinics will see few direct improvements.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - AI solutions for irrigation, crop monitoring, ranch management, and wildfire forecasting risk being redirected into global markets rather than tailored to Montana's conditions.
  - Federal research priorities may sideline local ag-tech innovation in favor of export-ready platforms.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - AI-assisted telemedicine, critical for rural Montana, is deprioritized as agencies fund AI platforms with international scalability.
  - Rural hospitals already struggling with staff shortages may lose support for AI-based innovations.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Tribal colleges and universities are largely excluded from export-focused funding streams.
  - Broadband and infrastructure gaps further block participation in global AI markets.
  - Opportunities for developing AI tools for tribal agriculture or health services are bypassed.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**

    - About 2000 Montana students and researchers in AI programs at MSU and UM are exposed to export-driven opportunities, but domestic community benefits are slim.
    - Low-income families, seniors, and veterans, who might gain from AI in health, housing, or social services, see no meaningful improvements.
- This EO puts exports first and Montanans last. By prioritizing global AI dominance, federal agencies pull resources away from the most pressing local needs: wildfire prevention, sustainable farming, rural telemedicine, and tribal community services.
- The Plain truth is that Montana serves as a proving ground for export-oriented research without seeing its benefits. Rural families, clinics, and farms are left behind, while universities and startups are pressed to serve foreign markets.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)

- Department of Commerce - export promotion and compliance.
- Montana University System (UM/MSU) - research commercialization.
- National Science Foundation (NSF) - AI research programs.
- UM/MSU labs and affiliated startups.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **Export-control conflicts.** If Commerce is directed to favor licensure that undercuts EAR/ITAR guardrails, NGOs or competitors may seek APA review of rules that weaken human-rights/national-security checks.
- **Industrial policy & subsidies.** Awards/consortium designations raise procurement and Competition in Contracting Act issues if selection criteria are opaque.
- **Spending Clause.** Conditions on recipients' downstream licensing or data practices could be attacked as coercive/ambiguous.
- Possible conflicts with domestic research funding requirements (e.g., grants tied to rural healthcare or agriculture).
- MT universities/consortia may challenge eligibility rules if preference schemes disadvantage rural research institutions.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14320, Promoting the Export of the American AI Technology Stack, 90 FR 35393 (2025-07-28).
- Montana spreadsheet data: export promotion and university research context.
- Heritage Foundation, Project 2025, pp. 606–610, 662–663, 721–728.

EO 14321 - Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets

Overview
EO 14321 expands federal law-and-order directives by claiming to strengthen coordination between federal and local agencies, redirecting funding, and creating national enforcement priorities that override state and local discretion. Framed as a crackdown on crime, drugs, and disorder, the EO centralizes policing authority under DOJ task forces and security agencies.

For Montana, this EO brings mixed outcomes. It may bring short-term federal resources to some urban and rural communities, but it risks militarizing policing, redirecting grants away from prevention and treatment, and undermining local control. Federal resources that once supported community policing, opioid response, and rural health programs could now be redirected to high-visibility enforcement campaigns.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Heritage promotes "reasserting law and order" and expanding executive control of justice systems, reducing oversight of federal enforcement (pp. 481–486). This EO implements those recommendations by centralizing policing powers and framing civil liberties protections as secondary.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Funding diversion:** Federal COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) grants that support small-town departments could be redirected toward "crime crackdown" task forces, leaving rural prevention programs underfunded.
- **Opioid and rural health impact:** DOJ opioid treatment grants, worth millions nationally, may be reduced in Montana in favor of enforcement budgets. Rural prevention programs risk losing support.
- **Civil liberties risk:** Surveillance and militarized tactics may extend into Montana towns, with limited oversight or local consent.
- **Local autonomy:** State and tribal law enforcement risk having their priorities overridden by federal dictates.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Indirect impact: funds that could support agricultural community health (opioid treatment, housing stability) are siphoned into enforcement.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - DOJ's opioid and rural health funds risk cuts, leaving clinics in counties like Big Horn, Roosevelt, and Flathead less able to meet addiction treatment needs.
  - Rural wellness programs may lose up to hundreds of thousands in federal grant dollars if redirected.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Tribal sovereignty at risk: enforcement directives could encroach on tribal justice systems.
  - Blackfeet youth justice and Crow Nation opioid treatment programs could lose prevention dollars if budgets are shifted to federal enforcement.
  - Civil rights monitoring may weaken, leaving tribes more vulnerable to over-policing.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - Low-income and minority communities face disproportionate risks from intensified enforcement.
  - Students may see federal programs on school safety or after-school prevention cut.
  - Veterans' treatment courts and diversion programs could lose support if federal funds flow to punitive measures instead.

Why it Matters in Montana: EO 14321 claims to restore safety, but it does so by centralizing power in Washington, D.C. and prioritizing punitive measures over community solutions. Montana's communities need investment in prevention, health, and opportunity, not top-down enforcement that treats them as targets rather than partners. For Montana, this means:

- **Less prevention, more punishment:** Federal funds that once supported addiction recovery, youth programs, and rural health clinics may be pulled into militarized enforcement.
- **Erosion of local control:** Montana's sheriffs, police chiefs, and tribal law enforcement risk losing discretion as DOJ dictates priorities.
- **Disproportionate burden:** Small rural towns, low-income families, and Native youth are most vulnerable to the fallout of "one-size-fits-all" federal enforcement.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)

- DOJ (federal task forces, COPS, BJA).
- Montana DOJ and local law enforcement agencies.
- Tribal law enforcement programs.
- COPS grant administrators in small Montana towns.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- Potential conflicts with Tribal sovereignty protections and civil rights law.
- Early legal challenges likely if Title VI or Title VII funds are diverted without congressional approval.
- **Eighth Amendment / due process.** Post-*Grants Pass* space remains contested—sweeps, seizures of personal property, and civil commitment expansions may trigger Fourth/Fourteenth Amendment suits.
- **Preemption/federalism.** If DOJ/DHS funding is conditioned to force local policy shifts (encampment bans, commitment quotas), expect Spending Clause and anti-commandeering arguments.
- **Disability law.** Targeting unsheltered people with mental illness may conflict with ADA/Olmstead obligations.
- **Montana-specific legal pinch points:** City/county enforcement changes (Billings, Missoula) could invite **ADA** and **due-process** claims if seizure/storage protocols are thin.
- **What to watch next:** DOJ guidance and grant conditions; immediate injunctive relief motions in hotspot cities. Federal Register+2

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14321, Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets, 90 FR 35813 (2025-07-29).
- DOJ COPS grant data (DOJ, 2024).
- SBA/Montana community policing grant distribution.
- Heritage Foundation, Project 2025, pp. 481–486.
- GAO reports on opioid treatment and prevention funding (comparisons to prior DOJ allocations).

EO 14322 - Saving College Sports

Overview
EO 14322 federalizes oversight of college athletics, intervening in scholarships, compliance, and NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) rules. The order is framed as "protecting amateur sports," but it shifts priorities and resources away from academics.

In Montana, the order directly affects the University of Montana (UM), Montana State University (MSU), and smaller colleges. While federal recognition could bring visibility, it also imposes compliance burdens and risks diverting education funding to athletics. Tribal colleges are effectively excluded from new supports. The EO reflects this cultural agenda more than a genuine investment in education.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Heritage calls for restoring "traditional athletic values," curbing diversity and equity programs in athletics, and restricting NIL policies (pp. 529–531, 612–616).

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Funding diversion:** Academic programs lose priority as athletics rise.
- **Scholarship disruption: Roughly 500 Montana student-athletes face new compliance rules, while thousands of non-athlete students risk losing academic aid.**
- **Exclusion:** Tribal colleges sidelined from athletics support.
- **Compliance costs:** Universities must expand administration to meet federal oversight mandates.

Impact On Montana
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Indirect: Federal funds may shift away from rural education and health-linked programs into athletics, leaving fewer resources for rural services.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Native student-athletes gain little new support.
  - Tribal colleges risk cuts to academic programs as sports are prioritized elsewhere.
  - Federal consultation gaps leave tribal institutions excluded from governance decisions.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income, Seniors**
  - About 500 Montana student-athletes directly affected at UM/MSU.
  - Thousands of low-income students relying on academic scholarships may lose aid.
  - Compliance and budget trade-offs reduce academic opportunities for veterans and older non-traditional students.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO claims to protect college sports but deepens inequities in Montana's higher education system. Athletic programs gain federal attention, while academic aid, tribal colleges, and low-income students are left behind. Compliance costs strain university budgets, and resources are shifted away from education and community needs. The core truth: Montana's universities are forced to prioritize athletics over academics, leaving ordinary students with fewer opportunities and tribal colleges outside the system entirely.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges
- Possible conflict with Title IX if implementation reduces equity in scholarships.
- May clash with academic freedom and funding protections.
- **Title IX & equal protection.** If federal direction shifts resources across men's/women's/non-revenue sports, watch for Title IX challenges (allocation, scholarships, facilities).

- **Labor & antitrust.** Attempts to declare athletes non-employees or restrict NIL/collective activity could conflict with NLRB developments and draw Sherman Act scrutiny.

EO 14323 - Addressing Threats to the United States by the Government of Brazil

Overview
EO 14323 declares that actions by the Government of Brazil constitute a threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. It directs sanctions against Brazilian officials, restricts U.S. financial dealings, and positions Brazil as an adversarial state. This order builds on EO 14257 but escalates confrontation by broadening sanctions and curtailing U.S.-Brazil relations in trade, finance, and cooperation.

In Plain terms, the administration is reclassifying Brazil from a trading partner to a national security threat. The decision fits within the Project 2025 playbook of redrawing global alliances along ideological lines: rewarding authoritarian-aligned states while isolating democracies and left-leaning governments.

For Montana, the impacts are immediate and concrete. Brazil is both a competitor (beef, soy) and a trading partner (equipment, commodities). The sanctions risk retaliation that could destabilize Montana's export markets, raise costs for families, and expose small businesses to shocks.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Heritage advocates "economic warfare through sanctions" and "protection of domestic producers from unfair foreign competition" (pp. 487–495). EO 14323 enacts those prescriptions but the brunt falls on states like Montana, whose small, export-dependent economy cannot absorb the shocks.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
Montana becomes collateral damage in a geopolitical gambit. Sanctions branded as "national security" tools instead undermine local producers, small exporters, and rural households.
The reality: this EO weaponizes trade to serve ideological goals, while states like Montana absorb the costs. Beef and grain producers lose stability, rural families pay more for food and fuel, and tribal nations face disproportionate risk. What's sold as punishing Brazil is, in practice, punishing Montana.

- **Export disruption:** Montana exported $1.2 billion in agricultural goods in 2023 (wheat, barley, cattle). Brazilian retaliation could cut markets and depress prices.
- **Commodity volatility:** Brazil's dominance in beef and soy destabilizes global markets. Montana ranchers risk squeezed margins if global beef prices fall.
- **Feed costs:** Higher soy and corn prices - shaped by Brazilian exports - raise feed costs for Montana ranchers.
- **Small business exposure:** Of 1,597 Montana exporters, 1,397 are small businesses (SBA, 2023). Many rely on inputs and financing now entangled in sanctions.
- **Research & education:** Montana State University and University of Montana risk losing joint research programs with Brazilian institutions on climate, forestry, and water.

Impact On Montana
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - Beef and grain markets face destabilizing price shocks.
  - Fertilizer and farm equipment supply chains may reroute, raising input costs.
  - Montana timber and copper exports risk retaliation if Brazil turns trade toward China.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Food and fuel inflation strains rural clinics' budgets.
  - Higher household costs reduce access to care for low-income Montanans.
- **Tribal Nations**

    - Crow and Northern Cheyenne grazing agreements could be disrupted by beef/soy price disputes.
    - Tribes relying on federal food programs face instability if sanctions cascade into budget cuts.
- **Veterans, Families, Low-Income Montanans**
    - Over 20,000 Montana jobs tied to agriculture are indirectly threatened.
    - Fixed-income households and veterans are highly exposed to grocery and fuel price increases.
    - Students from farm families face declining support if family income drops due to export losses.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- Erosion of checks and balances: broad use of national security powers in economic policy.
- **IEEPA/NEA sufficiency.** Plaintiffs may argue the record fails to show an "unusual and extraordinary threat," challenging the predicate emergency and breadth of blocking sanctions.
- **Due process.** Designated parties (or U.S. affiliates) may seek delisting and contest notice/evidence used by OFAC.
- **Trade conflation.** Use of 19 U.S.C. § 2483 (Trade Act § 604) mechanics inside a sanctions EO may spur APA claims if tariff changes piggy-back on an IEEPA emergency.
- Exporters (beef/timber/feed) interacting with Brazilian supply chains may face **over-**compliance by banks, raising access to finance disputes.

Sources

- **Federal Register:** *Executive Order 14323, Addressing Threats to the United States by the Government of Brazil*, 90 FR 37739 (Aug. 5, 2025), FR Doc. 2025-14896; official PDF. (Federal Register)
- **White House:** Presidential Actions page summarizing the EO's rationale. (The White House)
- **CRS / Trade stats:** U.S.–Brazil background and U.S. goods trade data (USTR; Census). (Congress.gov)
- **Market coverage:** Reuters on Brazil–U.S. oil shipment pauses amid tariff/measure uncertainty (context). (Reuters)

EO 14324 - Suspending Duty-Free De Minimis Treatment for All Countries

Overview
This Executive Order ends the $800 "de minimis" duty-free exemption for imported parcels. Every shipment, no matter how small or from which country, now faces customs duties, paperwork, and delays.
The administration frames this as targeting China, protecting U.S. manufacturing, and stopping unsafe imports. But the policy applies universally to all countries and all importers. The result: higher costs for Montana's small businesses, families, tribal artisans, and exporters.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. Fortify tariff walls; eliminate "loopholes" in de minimis treatment; concentrate trade policy power in the Executive. This EO delivers on Heritage's call to dismantle de minimis exemptions, consolidating tariff authority under the White House while bypassing congressional oversight.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Punish China and stop "unfair trade practices."
- Protect U.S. manufacturers and create jobs.
- Prevent counterfeit or unsafe imports.
- Generate revenue for the federal government.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Consumers:** Every parcel - even a $50 farm part or prescription refill - now carries duties and fees. Rural households relying on online goods face new costs and delays.
- **Small Businesses:** Montana's 141,000 small businesses, employing 66.3% of the workforce (SBA, 2023), rely on affordable imported inputs. Compliance costs fall heaviest on micro-businesses. Tariffs on artisan supplies reduce income for online sellers. Tribal families near the border see higher costs for cross-border shipments.
- **Outdoor Industry:** Shops in Whitefish, Bozeman, and Missoula importing skis, bikes, or climbing gear now face new tariffs, raising retail prices.
- **Tribal Producers:** Artisans selling beadwork, jewelry, or crafts online pay duties on imported raw materials, squeezing already slim margins.
- **Farmers & Ranchers:** Small replacement parts ordered internationally now cost more and arrive slower, hitting critical planting and harvest windows.
- **Exports under threat:** Montana exports over $680 million annually (beef, wheat, barley, lumber). Trading partners may retaliate, cutting demand for these products.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Protect American jobs.
- Punish China.
- Ensure safe imports.

Real-World Translation (Montana context) This EO is not a narrow strike at China. It is a broad new tax on Montana's small businesses, families, and tribal artisans. It risks retaliatory tariffs against Montana's exports while raising costs at home. The supposed benefits of "job protection" are speculative, while the harms to small retailers, family farms, and consumers are immediate and concrete.
- Hits *all* imports, including from allies.
- Functions as a "small business tax" - large corporations like Amazon or Walmart absorb costs, but Montana micro-businesses cannot.
- Raises consumer prices on everyday goods, from clothing to farm tools.

Democracy & Governance

- This sweeping change was enacted by executive order alone, without congressional debate or stakeholder input.
- It exemplifies Project 2025's push to centralize economic power in the presidency, sidelining Congress, consumers, and small businesses.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)

- Department of Homeland Security / Customs & Border Protection (CBP).
- U.S. Postal Service (parcel delivery).
- Small Business Administration (SBA) / Small Business Development Centers (SBDC).
- Montana border ports: Sweetgrass, Roosville, Piegan.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- Risk of lawsuits from importers for overreach without congressional authorization.
- **Statutory conflict with 19 U.S.C. § 1321.** Congress set the $800 de minimis threshold; a blanket executive suspension for *all* countries invites ultra vires and major-questions challenges.
- **APA/notice.** Rapid implementation via CBP guidance without rulemaking could be attacked as procedurally invalid and arbitrary for ignoring small-entity impacts (RFA).
- **Customs due process.** Inconsistent brokerage assessments and surprise duty bills may trigger procedural due-process claims.
- Rural/tribal small sellers and clinics relying on mail-order supplies may join coalition suits or submit amici showing disproportionate harm.
- Parallel **congressional oversight**; preliminary injunction motions from trade associations and small-parcel platforms. The White House

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14324, *Suspending Duty-Free De Minimis Treatment for All Countries*, 90 FR 37775 (2025-08-05).
- U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Montana Small Business Profile (2023).
- Montana Dept. of Commerce, export data (2023).
- Heritage Foundation, *Project 2025: Mandate for Leadership*, pp. 446–449, 474–478.

EO 14325 - Amendment to Duties To Address the Flow of Illicit Drugs Across Our Northern Border

Overview
EO 14325 amends earlier Trump administration border enforcement orders (including EO 14193 and EO 14289) to expand duties and tariffs on Canadian imports, framed as a tool to block "illicit drug flows" across the northern border. While the order invokes fentanyl and methamphetamine trafficking as justification, the majority of seizures continue to occur at southern ports of entry, not Montana's rural crossings. The policy rationale is weak, but the economic and sovereignty consequences for Montana are significant: higher inspection costs, slower trade, strained cross-border tribal relations, and rising consumer prices.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct. "Weaponizing tariffs against security threats" and expanding executive policing authority. *Heritage Foundation, Mandate for Leadership* (2025), pp. 474–478. This EO reflects Project 2025's model of using trade and tariff powers as national security weapons, bypassing congressional appropriations and normal trade law, conditioning the public to accept militarized enforcement as a first resort.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Strengthen U.S. security and reduce drug trafficking across the northern border.
- Expand Customs and Border Protection (CBP) duties and enhance interagency coordination.
- Demonstrate "toughness" on fentanyl and meth by targeting Canadian imports.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Trade slowdown:** Montana's $1.1B in annual imports at the Sweetgrass Port of Entry face delays and higher costs. Small ranchers and trucking firms dependent on just-in-time cross-border flows absorb new fees.
- **Prescription drug costs:** Rural pharmacies and households relying on Canadian prescriptions face higher prices and longer waits.
- **Tribal sovereignty strain:** The Blackfeet Nation and other Hi-Line tribes face intensified federal surveillance, and vehicle stops near or across their lands, undermining treaty rights and sovereignty.
- **Tourism impacts:** Expanded inspections in the Glacier–Waterton border zone disrupt cross-border visitation and tourism.
- **Resource diversion:** More funding goes to interdiction infrastructure and personnel, while prevention/treatment programs in rural Montana - where overdose rates are rising - remain underfunded.

Impact On Montana
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Heightened federal presence near Blackfeet and Fort Belknap.
  - Greater risk of profiling for tribal members who cross frequently for family, cultural, or business reasons.
- **Agriculture & Trade**
  - Longer inspection times raise costs for exporters of grain, beef, and lumber.
  - Ranchers and small businesses in border communities (Sweetgrass, Cut Bank) lose competitiveness.
- **Rural Health & Consumers**
  - Higher costs for Canadian prescription drugs, relied upon by seniors and rural residents.
  - More financial pressure on already under-resourced local clinics.
- **Civil Liberties**
  - Expanded authority for federal agents increases risks of racial profiling, arbitrary stops, and surveillance creep across rural border communities.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)

- A decisive strike against fentanyl and meth trafficking.
- Protecting American families by hardening the northern border.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- Drug data show the southern border remains the primary fentanyl entry point.
- Tariffs and inspections punish legitimate trade, not traffickers.
- Federal militarization of Montana's 545-mile border creates sovereignty and civil liberties risks, while delivering negligible gains against actual drug trafficking.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)

EO 14325 uses the opioid crisis as political cover to expand executive trade and policing powers at Montana's northern border. In reality, the costs fall on:

- **Farmers and ranchers**, paying more to move goods.
- **Tribal nations**, burdened with surveillance and sovereignty conflicts.
- **Consumers**, facing higher prescription drug and retail prices.

The winners are politicians able to showcase "toughness," while Montana communities bear the economic and civil liberties costs.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)

- **DHS/CBP, ICE** - expanded enforcement at Sweetgrass, Roosville, Piegan, Turner, Wild Horse, Raymond.
- **DOJ/DEA, FBI** - interagency coordination and drug task forces.
- **USDA/APHIS, USFS** - inspection and monitoring in borderland forests.
- **Montana law enforcement** - expected to cooperate with federal surges.
- **Tribal Nations** -Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, Assiniboine & Gros Ventre, whose border adjacency makes them direct stakeholders.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **Nexus & evidence.** Plaintiffs will argue insufficient record connecting Canadian trade to drug flows (APA).
- **USMCA consistency.** Elevated inspections/duties may be framed as a de facto barrier, inviting state/industry suits and international complaints.
- **Preemption of state programs.** If federal actions impede lawful cross-border pharmacy programs, expect state AG pushback.
- Blackfeet Nation and other border communities may raise sovereignty/treaty-travel concerns if enforcement expands on or near tribal lands.
- CBP port directives; test cases from importers at Sweetgrass and Roosville challenging delay-driven losses. The American President

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14325, *Amendment to Duties To Address the Flow of Illicit Drugs Across Our Northern Border*, 90 FR 37957 (2025-08-06).
- CBP Northern Border Strategy (2020).
- Montana Department of Justice, Drug Seizure Reports (2022–2024).
- Blackfeet Nation border agreements and public statements.
- Heritage Foundation, *Project 2025: Mandate for Leadership*, pp. 474–478.

EO 14326 - Further Modifying the Reciprocal Tariff Rates

Overview
EO 14326 broadens the reciprocal tariff regime established earlier in 2025. It revises annexes to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, setting new rates by country and sector, clarifies how in-transit goods are treated, and staggers effective dates.

The administration frames this as leverage to secure "fairer" trade deals. In reality, it entrenches tariff exposure across a wide spectrum of consumer goods and industrial inputs, raises compliance hurdles, and injects long-term uncertainty into Montana's supply chains.

Project 2025 Alignment
Direct. Sweeping executive tariff authority; "fair trade" weaponized to pressure partners; industrial supply-chain realignment. *Heritage Foundation, Mandate for Leadership* (2025), Trade (pp. 765–795), Commerce (pp. 663–690), Treasury (pp. 691–716). This EO directly enacts Heritage's call to use tariffs as an executive power lever, bypassing Congress and embedding structural costs into imports.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Correct "chronic trade imbalances."
- Discourage imports; incentivize on-shoring/near-shoring.
- Protect U.S. producers and "national security" industries.

Real-World Translation (Montana context) EO 14326 bakes tariff volatility into Montana's daily economy. Instead of stabilizing trade, it forces small businesses and farms to navigate compliance rules better suited to multinationals. A grace period until October 5 offers only temporary relief; afterward, every importer pays. The supposed winners are U.S. manufacturers and "national security" industries. The actual losers are Montana's small farms, retailers, and households who face higher costs and fewer buffers.
- **Short window to adapt:** Small importers had just days between signing and effective date to adjust orders; the grace period ends October 5.
- **Planning risk:** Montana firms relying on small shipments of farm/ranch equipment, outdoor gear, or medical devices face steep penalties if shipments miss the transit window.
- **Brokerage burden:** Proving "in transit" status requires documentation that many small businesses lack - raising customs broker costs.
- **Contract stress:** Long-term supply contracts are destabilized by shifting tariff dates and rates.

Impact On Montana
- **Small Businesses & Households**
  - **Price spikes & volatility:** Tools, tractor parts, fencing wire, and household imports become more expensive.
  - **Profit squeeze:** Compliance paperwork, transit rules, and duties hit micro-businesses hardest.
- **Agriculture, Energy & Natural Resources**
  - **Inputs costlier:** Pumps, bearings, steel, fuel-related components all rise in cost.
  - **Exports at risk:** Montana exports ≈ $3B annually, 57% dependent on small firms; partners may retaliate against wheat, beef, or timber.
  - **Productivity hit:** Delays in replacing equipment during harvest/planting directly reduce yields.
- **Border Communities & Trade Logistics**
  - MT–Canada ports (Sweetgrass, Roosville, Piegan, Turner) face slower clearances; just-in-time deliveries for farms and retailers are jeopardized.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**

    - Mail-order Canadian prescriptions and medical supplies face duty and inspection delays, raising prices for rural households and clinics.
- **Tribal Nations**
    - **Blackfeet Nation trade weakened:** Cross-border family and artisan commerce more costly.
    - **Resource deals strained:** Crow and Northern Cheyenne grazing/timber markets could be collateral damage if retaliation targets natural resources.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income & Seniors**
    - **Regressive burden:** Rural households and fixed-income seniors bear the brunt of higher consumer prices.
    - **Workforce effects:** Retail, logistics, and ag support jobs cut back as employers tighten budgets.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)

- USTR, Treasury, Commerce/ITC, DHS/CBP (tariff setting, enforcement).
- Montana touchpoints: MT Dept. of Commerce, SBA/SBDC, USDA programs, local distributors and brokers.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **Annex mechanics.** Lawsuits will scrutinize HTSUS annex changes, staggered effective dates, and in-transit exceptions for internal inconsistencies (APA).
- **Delegation limits.** If the EO functions as an open-ended tariff code, challengers may press major-questions/nondelegation theories.
- **Disparate treatment.** Country-specific add-ons invite claims of discrimination inconsistent with USMCA/WTO, used as APA support domestically.
- Import-reliant ag/retail firms may litigate in-transit cutoffs and seek refunds for abrupt rate shifts.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14326, *Further Modifying the Reciprocal Tariff Rates*, 90 FR 37963 (2025-08-06).
- SBA, Montana Small Business Profile (2023).
- Montana Dept. of Commerce, export data (2023).
- USDA & state ag input exposure notes.
- Heritage Foundation, *Project 2025: Mandate for Leadership*, pp. 663–716, 765–795.

EO 14236 builds on the earlier mass rescission order by revoking an additional set of executive actions spanning public health, labor standards, climate and energy supply chains, Tribal governance, biotechnology, and human rights—further consolidating the rollback initiated at the start of the administration. The full list of rescinded actions is available in the Federal Register.

EO 14327 - President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition, and the Reestablishment of the Presidential Fitness Test

Overview
EO 14327 reestablishes the Presidential Fitness Test and reorganizes the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition. Framed as a return to "traditional standards" of discipline and accountability, the order departs from earlier councils that emphasized inclusive wellness and nutrition. Instead, it prioritizes uniform benchmarks and public demonstration of youth fitness.

Project 2025 Alignment:
Direct. Symbolic. "Patriotic education" and federally imposed discipline in schools.

- **Reference:** *Heritage Foundation, Mandate for Leadership* (Education, pp. 847–865; HHS/CDC, pp. 743–754).
- **Translation:** Treats fitness as a measure of national strength while sidelining diversity, equity, and inclusion frameworks - risking discriminatory effects on low-income, disabled, or rural students.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)

- Reinforce discipline and traditional standards via mandatory youth fitness testing.
- Provide measurable benchmarks for student health.
- Inspire national pride and civic accountability.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Mandatory testing:** K–12 students face federally guided assessments (runs, push-ups, sit-ups, flexibility tests).
- **Compliance costs:** Districts must report results, diverting staff and budgets without added funding.
- **Symbol over support:** No expansion of rural PE facilities, nutrition, or mental health services.

Impact On Montana

- **Education & School Systems**
  - **Montana's 148,585 K–12 students (2023–24):** 26 of 56 counties have a nurse-to-student ratio of 1:2,000. Mandates stretch already thin staff.
  - **Compliance** burdens rural schools that lack gyms or athletic trainers.
  - **Opportunity cost:** Nurses/counselors pulled from immunizations or mental health support to manage federal testing.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Blackfeet, Crow, and Flathead schools already underfunded; new mandates deepen inequities.
  - Tribal students face disproportionate barriers with fewer facilities and support staff.
- **Health Access & Rural Impact**
  - School health resources siphoned to testing over local health priorities.
  - Students with disabilities risk inequitable treatment if accommodations aren't provided or funded.
- **Veterans, Students, Low-Income & Seniors**
  - Low-income students lack access to gyms or nutrition support, more likely to "fail."
  - Families risk stigma without benefit, widening achievement and health gaps.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO imposes symbolic mandates without resources. Rural and tribal schools must absorb new compliance costs, stretching staff already spread across hundreds of students. Instead of supporting wellness through

nutrition, mental health, or inclusive activity, the EO enshrines a "discipline test" that risks discrimination and widens disparities.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)

- Dept. of Education (ED/OESE), HHS/CDC - oversight.
- Montana OPI & local districts - compliance.
- DPHHS - possible interface on school health.

Policy Anchors

- Builds on EO 10830 (Eisenhower, fitness council).
- Revokes EO 12345 (1982) and EO 13824 (2018).
- Amends EO 13265 (2002).
- Legal risks: ADA/IDEA clashes if exemptions not clarified.

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **Spending Clause / federalism.** If federal funds are conditioned on mandatory K–12 testing, states/districts may challenge coercive or ambiguous conditions.
- **ADA/Section 504/IDEA.** Uniform benchmarks that lack accommodations will trigger disability-rights actions.
- **Student privacy.** Collection/reporting of fitness data raises FERPA and state privacy-law claims.
- Rural and tribal districts could contest unfunded mandates and seek waivers or declaratory relief on accommodation standards.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14327, *President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition*, 90 FR 37993 (2025-08-06).
- Montana OPI data: student counts, nurse ratios.

EO 14328 - Establishing the White House Task Force on the 2028 Summer Olympics

Overview
EO 14328 establishes a White House Task Force on the 2028 Summer Olympics, directing DHS, DOJ, DOT, TSA, HHS, and other agencies to coordinate security, logistics, and public health for the Los Angeles Games. For Montana, the EO is symbolic but has real opportunity cost: federal dollars and staff may be diverted to LA28 readiness rather than rural state programs.

Project 2025 Alignment. Implied. Federal centralization of prestige events; prioritization of "national pride" over local welfare spending. *Foundation, Mandate for Leadership* (Security & Defense, pp. 703–710). Federal bandwidth shifts from rural health/sports grants to symbolic national projects.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)
- Guarantee national preparedness and flawless Olympic execution.
- Strengthen international confidence in U.S. security.
- Coordinate public health, transport, and law enforcement nationally.

Real-World Translation (Montana context)
- **Resource diversion:** Federal grants for school athletics, youth sports, or rural health risk redirection to LA28.
- **Indirect obligations:** Montana National Guard, TSA staff at Billings/Missoula/Great Falls airports may be reassigned for Olympic-related security.
- **Symbol over substance: No direct benefit to Montana; only potential loss of resources.**

Impact On Montana
- **Education & Youth Programs**
  - Montana schools already underfunded in athletics; loss of federal grants further shrinks rural/tribal sports opportunities.
  - Families in rural districts cannot self-fund replacement resources.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Tribal youth programs, already underfunded, risk losing after-school or athletic support.
  - Symbolic contrast: federal spotlight on LA while rural/tribal priorities ignored.
- **Public Safety & Health**
  - DPHHS or National Guard could be tapped for readiness support, straining budgets.
  - TSA/DOT reassignments may thin coverage at rural airports, inconveniencing Montana travelers.
- **Rural Families & Seniors**
  - No tangible benefit; only indirect costs through lost programs or stretched services.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
The Olympics are a prestige project. Billions will be spent in Los Angeles while Montana schools, tribal communities, and rural families may lose scarce grants and federal staffing. For Montanans, LA28 symbolizes **opportunity cost**: resources pulled away from those who need them most.

Agencies Affected (MT relevance)
- DHS, DOJ, DOT, TSA, HHS.
- Montana DOJ, National Guard, DPHHS, and school districts (via potential resource diversion).

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **Appropriations & Anti-Deficiency.** If agencies reprogram funds to LA28 activities without authority, GAO protests could follow.
- **Posse Comitatus / military support.** Any contemplated Guard/DoD roles must navigate statutory limits and state consent.
- **Federalism & prioritization.** Rural states could challenge redistribution of discretionary grants if agency criteria are quietly tilted toward the Games.
- TSA/DOT staffing shifts from rural airports; Montana could challenge grant scoring **changes** that deprioritize rural safety programs.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14328, *Establishing the White House Task Force on the 2028 Summer Olympics*, 90 FR 38597 (2025-08-08).
- MT spreadsheet notes: "community sports lose grants," "tribal youth programs underfunded."

NOTE OF INTEREST ON EO 14327 & EO 14328 shows emphasis is on Symbolism Over Substance

Together, EO 14327 (Presidential Fitness Test) and EO 14328 (Olympics Task Force) illustrate the Trump administration's use of executive power for **cultural and prestige projects** rather than local investment. Both are aligned with Project 2025's emphasis on "patriotic education," discipline, and national pride, while reversing decades of more inclusive federal approaches to health and equity.

For Montana, the impacts are indirect but telling:

- **Schools and tribal districts** face new unfunded mandates under EO 14327, stretching already thin staff and widening disparities.
- **Rural communities** may lose youth sports and wellness funding as EO 14328 channels federal resources toward Los Angeles Olympic preparations.

The Plain truth is that these EOs prioritize symbolism over support. They highlight Washington D.C.'s willingness to elevate prestige projects while leaving Montana's classrooms, clinics, and communities to absorb new burdens without additional resources.

EO 14329 - Addressing Threats to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation

Overview. EO 14329 expands sanctions against Russia, tightening restrictions on Russian government entities, banks, and affiliated industries. It blocks U.S. transactions with sanctioned actors, restricts trade in energy, tech, and agriculture, and strengthens compliance obligations for U.S. companies. The surprise provision: a 25% additional duty on Indian imports, justified by India's continued purchase of Russian oil. This expands the order far beyond Russia and directly impacts Montana producers and importers who rely on Indian-linked fertilizers, chemicals, or manufactured parts.

Project 2025 Alignment. Direct.

- **Themes:** Decoupling from adversaries in food, energy, and critical infrastructure; consolidating executive power over trade.
- **References:** *Heritage Foundation, Mandate for Leadership* (2025), pp. 487–495, 512–520.
- **Translation:** Reflects Heritage's call to sever economic ties with adversaries while forcing domestic industries to absorb the transition costs.

Stated Goal (Administration framing)

- Punish Russia for "destabilizing acts."
- Protect U.S. national security and financial integrity.
- Signal U.S. leadership by penalizing countries enabling Russia (India).

Real-World Translation (Montana context)

- **Export disruption:** Montana's **$1.7B wheat and $83M pulse exports (2023)** face volatility as Russia/India trade shifts ripple into global grain pricing.
- **Input inflation:** Fertilizer, diesel, and chemicals sourced via India or Russia rise in cost. Farmers planting winter wheat in Sept 2025 are first hit.
- **Banking burden:** Local banks/credit unions must adopt new screening protocols immediately (Aug 6 forward), straining compliance staff.
- **Short window:** Montana importers relying on Indian fertilizers or ag chemicals had less than 10 days (Aug 6–15) to accelerate shipments into the U.S. to beat the new duty; after Sept 30, no exemptions remain.

Impact On Montana

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
  - **Wheat/pulse crops:** Loss of buyers or pricing stability threatens 20,000+ ag jobs.
  - **Fertilizer/fuel:** Input costs spike; small farms/ranches face shrinking margins.
  - **Timber:** Export contracts risk cancellation if Russia/India-linked markets shrink.
- **Rural Health & Clinics**
  - Diesel and utility price hikes inflate clinic operating costs.
  - Medical supply deliveries more expensive due to energy inflation.
- **Tribal Nations**
  - Blackfeet and Crow wheat growers see market instability.
  - Ranching operations on reservations face fertilizer/fuel inflation with fewer buffers.
  - Tribally owned enterprises face tougher banking compliance hurdles.
- **Veterans, Seniors, Low-Income Households**
  - Fixed-income households hardest hit by heating/fuel inflation this winter.
  - Rural families forced to tradeoff between food and energy bills.
  - Students in ag programs face reduced export-related career paths.

Why It Matters (Plain truth for Montana)
This EO isn't just about Russia. By pulling India into the sanctions net with a 25% duty, it adds new costs to Montana farms, households, and small businesses almost overnight.

- Farmers face higher fertilizer costs just as planting begins.
- Tribes and rural banks take on outsized compliance duties without extra support.
- Households pay more for energy and groceries.

The order may strengthen U.S. posture abroad - but it destabilizes Montana's local economy at home.

Agencies Affected (Montana relevance)

- **USDA Foreign Agricultural Service** - monitoring export disruptions.
- **Treasury/OFAC** - compliance for local banks and exporters.
- **DHS/CBP** - implementing Aug 15 tariff changes at MT ports (Sweetgrass, Roosville, Piegan).
- **DOE/Distributors** - managing fuel/fertilizer volatility.
- **MT Dept. of Ag/Commerce** - supporting affected exporters.

Policy Anchors

- International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).
- National Emergencies Act.
- Tariff Act of 1930 (modified via proclamation authority).

Legal / Constitutional Questions & Likely Challenges

- **IEEPA predicates & scope.** Designated parties may test whether the factual basis supports new sanctions layers; some actions (e.g., third-country duties) raise questions about using Russia emergency findings to reach non-Russian targets.
- **Due process & delisting.** OFAC procedures will face notice/evidence challenges, particularly for U.S. persons or subsidiaries swept in.
- **Energy/trade overlaps.** Integration with existing EO 14024/14066 regimes invites APA suits if new trade restrictions conflict with prior licenses or GLs.
    - **Montana-specific legal pinch points**
        - Banks and co-ops face compliance burdens; ag exporters may see over-blocking by counterparties.
        - Legal risks: disproportionate harm to U.S. producers may trigger congressional or GAO oversight; WTO complaints possible from India.

Sources & References

- Federal Register: EO 14329, *Addressing Threats to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation*, 90 FR 38701 (2025-08-11).
- CBP notice on HTSUS amendments (Aug 27, 2025).
- USDA trade stats (2023); SBA, Montana Small Business Profile (2023).
- Heritage Foundation, *Project 2025: Mandate for Leadership*, pp. 487–495, 512–520.
- CRS/GAO reports on sanctions and ag impacts (comparatives: Iran, Cuba).

Looking Ahead - The Continuation of a Trend

The Executive Orders listed in this guide up to this point (14147–14329), reveal a clear pattern: the systematic concentration of power in the executive branch, the politicization of truth, and the quiet erosion of citizen participation and authority under the guise of efficiency and equating loyalty to the administration and Project 2025, as patriotism.

The following Executive Orders (14330–14366) continue this trajectory—some executive orders are new, some are extensions of older executive orders, but all are reinforcing a model of governance in Project 2025 which attempts to give the president the power to govern not through institutions and the Constitution, but through decree. The 2025 executive orders expand authoritarian control into culture, labor, foreign policy and science while exhausting the very machinery of democratic balance. This approach has invited chaos.

The Executive Order batch below, lists brief summaries - a *citizen-alert snapshot*. The Executive Orders have continued at such a pace that for a thoughtful, useful analysis, it is almost impossible to keep up this guide.

Executive Orders Signed After August 7, 2025 (as of 12/30/25)

The following EO titles are signed and in effect but not narrated in detail in this guide yet.

EO 14330 - Democratizing Access to Alternative Assets for 401(k) Investors

Project 2025 Alignment Advances the privatization plank—shifting retirement security from public trust to market speculation.

Real-World Impact Permits high-risk private-equity and hedge-fund products inside 401(k)s; erodes fiduciary safeguards.

Impact on Democracy Citizens' future stability becomes Wall Street's playground. A people ruled by market fear are easier to govern by promise.

EO 14331 - Guaranteeing Fair Banking for All Americans

Project 2025 Alignment Implements the "anti-woke finance" campaign—politicizing access to credit.

Real-World Impact Bars banks from factoring environmental or social risk into lending decisions; weakens anti-discrimination enforcement.

Impact on Democracy Turns fairness into coercion. When banks must serve ideology before integrity, economic freedom becomes obedience in disguise.

EO 14332 - Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking

Project 2025 Alignment Centralizes funding control under executive ideology—mirroring Heritage's goal to defund dissent.

Real-World Impact Requires political-loyalty vetting for nonprofits and universities receiving federal grants.

Impact on Democracy Public money becomes partisan weaponry. The state rewards echo, not evidence.

EO 14333 - Declaring a Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia

Project 2025 Alignment Extends "law-and-order exceptionalism" to the nation's capital.

Real-World Impact Invokes emergency powers to override D.C.'s home rule; installs federal policing command.

Impact on Democracy Local self-government suspended by decree. The laboratory of liberty becomes a rehearsal for martial governance.

EO 14334 - Further Modifying Reciprocal Tariff Rates To Reflect Ongoing Discussions With the People's Republic of China

Project 2025 Alignment Continues executive-only trade control—eroding congressional fiscal authority.

Real-World Impact Adjusts tariffs without transparency; inflates consumer costs while hiding fiscal decisions behind diplomacy.

Impact on Democracy When taxes are levied by conversation, not consent, representation is an illusion.

EO 14335 - Enabling Competition in the Commercial Space Industry

Project 2025 Alignment Deregulation as cosmic nationalism—privatize the heavens under "American leadership."

Real-World Impact Transfers NASA contracts to private conglomerates; reduces environmental and labor oversight.

Impact on Democracy Public exploration becomes corporate conquest. Citizens lose both ownership of discovery and voice in its direction.

EO 14336 - Ensuring American Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Resilience by Filling the Strategic Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients Reserve

Project 2025 Alignment Fuses industrial policy with deregulation—"self-reliance" through corporate consolidation.

Real-World Impact Creates subsidies and liability shields for major drug manufacturers; sidelines FDA scrutiny.

Impact on Democracy Health security morphs into corporate security. The people pay twice—first in taxes, then in trust.

EO 14337 - Revocation of Executive Order on Competition

Project 2025 Alignment Repeals the 2021 Competition EO—formalizing monopolistic economics.

Real-World Impact Eliminates antitrust-coordination mechanisms; opens markets to further consolidation.

Impact on Democracy Monopoly economics births monopoly politics. Citizens are left consumers of both goods and governance.

EO 14338 - Improving Our Nation Through Better Design

Project 2025 Alignment Extends "aesthetic nationalism" into architecture and civic branding.

Real-World Impact Mandates classical design for federal buildings; cuts funding for contemporary or diverse art.

Impact on Democracy Uniform façades mask shrinking freedom. The architecture of authority teaches reverence, not reflection.

EO 14339 - Additional Measures To Address the Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia

Project 2025 Alignment Deepens the D.C. emergency framework—merging policing with political messaging.

Real-World Impact Deploys federal tactical units; suspends certain local-court procedures.

Impact on Democracy Every emergency becomes a precedent. The line between capital and controlled zone blurs.

EO 14340 - Measures To End Cashless Bail and Enforce the Law in the District of Columbia

Project 2025 Alignment Uses crime policy to model "national criminal justice realignment."

Real-World Impact Overrides D.C. judiciary; enforces mandatory detention standards nationally.

Impact on Democracy Liberty once presumed becomes privilege once proven. Citizens learn that freedom now requires permission.

EO 14341 - Prosecuting Burning of the American Flag

Project 2025 Alignment Codifies culture-war criminalization—directly attacking First Amendment precedent.

Real-World Impact Mandates DOJ prosecution of flag desecration; reclassifies it as "domestic extremism."

Impact on Democracy Free expression redefined as threat. When patriotism is compulsory, loyalty loses meaning.

EO 14342 - Taking Steps To End Cashless Bail To Protect Americans

Project 2025 Alignment Expands nationwide anti-bail campaign—embedding federal control over state justice systems.

Real-World Impact Ties federal grants to compliance with bail restrictions; undermines judicial discretion and local reform efforts.

Impact on Democracy Centralized punishment replaces community judgment. Citizens should care because when fear governs courts, justice soon governs no one.

EO 14343 - Further Exclusions From the Federal Labor-Management Relations Program

Project 2025 Alignment Expands the workforce-control plank—erasing the last strongholds of independent union representation within government.

Real-World Impact Removes entire agency divisions from collective bargaining; codifies "executive loyalty" clauses in federal contracts.

Impact on Democracy When workers cannot speak, neither can the public they serve. Citizens should care because silence in the civil service precedes silence everywhere else.

EO 14344 - Making Federal Architecture Beautiful Again

Project 2025 Alignment Aesthetic authoritarianism made policy—reviving classical styles as moral symbols of obedience and order.

Real-World Impact Forces agencies to replace modern design with "traditional" architecture; directs funds to politically connected contractors.

Impact on Democracy Architecture becomes propaganda in stone. Citizens should care because the spaces that shape public life begin teaching reverence to power, not participation in it.

EO 14345 - Implementing the United States–Japan Agreement

Project 2025 Alignment A continuation of the executive treaty-by-decree model—foreign agreements without Senate ratification.

Real-World Impact Implements trade and defense arrangements through direct executive authority; Congress informed only post-facto.

Impact on Democracy Treaties without representation hollow out the republic's foundation. Citizens should care because power unreviewed is power unbounded.

EO 14346 - Modifying the Scope of Reciprocal Tariffs and Establishing Procedures for Implementing Trade and Security Agreements

Project 2025 Alignment Institutionalizes perpetual trade-war governance—blurring the boundary between commerce and coercion.

Real-World Impact Creates an interagency council chaired by the President to alter tariff schedules in real time, without legislative oversight.

Impact on Democracy Economic power concentrated at the top becomes political control in every home. Citizens should care because hidden tariffs are hidden taxes—and hidden taxes buy hidden tyranny.

EO 14347 - Restoring the United States Department of War

Project 2025 Alignment A direct ideological revival of pre–Cold War executive militarism—restoring the "Department of War" title to symbolize unashamed dominance.

Real-World Impact Renames and reorients the Department of Defense; elevates domestic-security coordination under military leadership.

Impact on Democracy Language reveals intent: defense becomes offense, citizen becomes subject. Citizens should care because names matter—this one declares that peace is no longer the goal.

EO 14348 - Strengthening Efforts To Protect U.S. Nationals From Wrongful Detention Abroad

Project 2025 Alignment Extends the "America First abroad" doctrine—protection through unilateralism.

Real-World Impact Centralizes hostage policy in the White House; limits diplomatic collaboration.

Impact on Democracy Humanitarian rescue becomes political theater. Citizens should care because when compassion is filtered through ideology, mercy itself becomes partisan.

EO 14349 - Establishing an Emergency Board To Investigate Disputes Between the Long Island Rail Road Company and Certain of Its Employees Represented by Certain Labor Organizations

Project 2025 Alignment Reasserts executive supremacy over labor arbitration—circumventing neutral mediation boards.

Real-World Impact Creates a precedent for federal intervention in private-sector disputes under "critical infrastructure" claims.

Impact on Democracy Collective bargaining survives only at the President's pleasure. Citizens should care because rights dependent on mood are rights already lost.

EO 14350 - Further Extending the TikTok Enforcement Delay

Project 2025 Alignment Continues the digital-control framework disguised as security reform.

Real-World Impact Delays restrictions but tightens content-monitoring and cross-platform data rules.

Impact on Democracy Each postponement expands surveillance while appearing benign. Citizens should care because normalization of monitoring is the quiet end of private thought.

EO 14351 - The Gold Card

Project 2025 Alignment Implements a loyalty-based "fast track" for trusted citizens—Heritage's concept of privileging ideological alignment within bureaucracy and benefits.

Real-World Impact Creates a credential granting expedited federal services and employment preference for "verified patriotic contributors."

Impact on Democracy Equal citizenship dies the moment privilege is branded gold. Citizens should care because two classes of Americans—approved and suspect—is how free nations fall.

EO 14352 - Saving TikTok While Protecting National Security

Project 2025 Alignment Marries populist entertainment politics with surveillance infrastructure—turning "rescue" into regulation.

Real-World Impact Nationalizes app compliance operations; mandates U.S. government data oversight for social platforms.

Impact on Democracy Freedom of expression becomes state-administered. Citizens should care because once speech flows through government channels, dissent drowns in bureaucracy.

EO 14353 - Assuring the Security of the State of Qatar

Project 2025 Alignment A continuation of personality-driven diplomacy—alliances brokered for image, not interest.

Real-World Impact Expands arms sales and defense guarantees without congressional review; favors select corporate contractors.

Impact on Democracy Foreign relations become extensions of private power. Citizens should care because accountability abroad foretells accountability's death at home.

EO 14354 - Continuance of Certain Federal Advisory Committees

Project 2025 Alignment Recasts advisory boards as instruments of loyalty rather than expertise.

Real-World Impact Retains only committees aligned with current ideology; dismisses scientific and civic panels deemed "biased."

Impact on Democracy Expertise replaced by echo chambers. Citizens should care because governance without truth breeds policy without conscience.

EO 14355 - Unlocking Cures for Pediatric Cancer With Artificial Intelligence

Project 2025 Alignment: Uses benevolent framing to advance AI centralization—tying medical research to executive-controlled data systems.

Real-World Impact Creates a federal AI platform for health research but privatizes data access to select corporate partners.

Impact on Democracy Even hope becomes monetized. Citizens should care because when empathy is coded and patented, humanity itself risks becoming proprietary.

EO 14356 - Ensuring Continued Accountability in Federal Hiring

Project 2025 Alignment Extends merit hiring frameworks and embeds strategic hiring committees at every agency.

Real-World Impact Requires top agency leadership oversight on all federal hiring decisions, tying workforce planning to political priorities and mission goals. Agencies now must formalize "strategic hiring committees" and staffing plans.

Impact on Democracy Federal hiring becomes more centralized and top-down; this risks politicizing career civil service and narrowing pathways for independent or non-aligned applicants. Citizens should care because public trust in neutral government service relies on fair, apolitical hiring. (The American Presidency Project)

EO 14357 - Modifying Duties Addressing the Synthetic Opioid Supply Chain in the People's Republic of China

Project 2025 Alignment Frames supply-chain security as a national priority tied to economic sovereignty.

Real-World Impact Adjusts federal tariff and duty policy to target opioid precursor flows and China-linked supply vulnerabilities. Enforcement and import classification changes will shift agricultural and chemical import costs.

Impact on Democracy Trade enforcement doubles as supply-chain policy; with limited transparency, these technical tariff shifts can alter markets without legislative debate, weakening democratic oversight of economic levers. (The American Presidency Project)

EO 14358 - Modifying Reciprocal Tariff Rates Consistent with the Economic and Trade Arrangement Between the U.S. and the People's Republic of China

Project 2025 Alignment Recasts trade policy in national-security terms, prioritizing bilateral arrangements over multilateral norms.

Real-World Impact Continues suspension of previously heightened tariffs on Chinese imports under a negotiated trade arrangement, affecting goods ranging from agriculture to minerals. This alters global supply chains and import pricing.

Impact on Democracy By reinterpreting tariff authority as executive power, it sidesteps traditional legislative control over trade policy. Citizens should care because tariffs and trade deals have broad impacts on jobs, prices, and economic sovereignty. (The American Presidency Project)

EO 14359 - Fostering the Future for American Children and Families

Project 2025 Alignment: Advances family-centric policy goals tied to workforce, education, and social norms.

Real-World Impact: Directs federal attention and agency cooperation toward child and family-oriented programs, workforce training, and support mechanisms. It frames domestic policy in terms of national resilience.

Impact on Democracy: While family support is broadly popular, consolidating policy direction through executive fiat narrows legislative debate. Without clear statutory backing, these priorities may shift with each administration, reducing long-term policy stability.

EO 14360 - Modifying the Scope of the Reciprocal Tariff With Respect to Certain Agricultural Products

Project 2025 Alignment: Further refines executive tariff authority to bolster domestic agriculture and counter global trade imbalances.

Real-World Impact: Excludes certain agricultural categories from reciprocal tariff application, changing competitive conditions for U.S. producers and importers.

Impact on Democracy: Tariff scope changes meaningfully affect rural economies and commodity prices without congressional tariff reform, concentrating policy choices within the executive branch.

EO 14361 - Modifying the Scope of Tariffs on the Government of Brazil

Project 2025 Alignment: Extends reciprocal trade strategy to other major partners, emphasizing national interest framing.

Real-World Impact: Recalibrates tariff burdens applied to Brazilian government-linked imports, potentially affecting energy, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors.

Impact on Democracy: Trade adjustments via executive order reduce legislative input into cross-border economic policy, insulating key decisions from broader oversight and public debate.

EO 14362 - Designation of Certain Muslim Brotherhood Chapters as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists

Project 2025 Alignment: Reinforces national security priorities consistent with hardline counterterror frameworks.

Real-World Impact: Formally designates named entities as FTOs and SDGTs, triggering economic sanctions, asset freezes, and criminal penalties for material support.

Impact on Democracy: FTO designations rightly address threats but must balance civil liberties, due process, and geopolitical nuance. Executive speed here can outrun transparent judicial review.

EO 14363 - Launching the Genesis Mission

Project 2025 Alignment: Highlights space exploration and technological nationalism themes.

Real-World Impact: Establishes or directs a government mission dubbed "Genesis," focused on emerging aerospace or scientific objectives—likely advancing research and partnerships.

Impact on Democracy: Ambitious scientific goals bolster national prestige but require careful accountability. Public investment in high-tech missions demands legislative and budgetary participation, not just executive declaration.

EO 14364 - Addressing Security Risks from Price Fixing and Anti-Competitive Behavior in the Food Supply Chain

Project 2025 Alignment: Frames antitrust and supply-chain enforcement as national security imperatives.

Real-World Impact: Directs DOJ and FTC to create task forces investigating price fixing or anti-competitive conduct in food markets, especially where foreign control is implicated. This could prompt enforcement actions and new regulatory approaches.

Impact on Democracy: Expands agency power to police markets without new statutory authority, raising questions about oversight and due process for affected firms. Citizens should care because enforcement choices shape market access, prices, and industry competitiveness. (The White House)

EO 14365 - Ensuring a National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence

Project 2025 Alignment: Advances executive coordination of AI governance under a unified national strategy.

Real-World Impact: Directs agencies to develop policy frameworks for AI development, safety, trust, and economic use, placing AI governance firmly within executive purview.

Impact on Democracy: AI policymaking through executive order accelerates regulation without broad legislative deliberation, potentially locking in governance frameworks that may not reflect diverse stakeholder interests.

EO 14366 - Protecting American Investors From Foreign-Owned and Politically-Motivated Proxy Advisors

Project 2025 Alignment: Targets financial governance and investor protection tied to national interest rhetoric.

Real-World Impact: Limits or restructures proxy advisory influence by foreign or politically motivated entities, affecting corporate governance and investor decision channels.

Impact on Democracy: Altering market governance mechanisms through executive action affects shareholder rights and financial markets without statutory reform, concentrating power within the executive branch.

EO 14367 - Designating Fentanyl as a Weapon of Mass Destruction

Project 2025 Alignment: Expands national-security framing into domestic law enforcement and drug policy, reinforcing a punitive, emergency-powers approach to public health crises.

Real-World Impact: Reclassifying fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction escalates criminal enforcement and national-security authorities rather than prioritizing treatment, harm reduction, and cross-border public health cooperation. The designation risks broadening surveillance, asset seizure, and prosecution tools while doing little to address addiction, overdose prevention, or pharmaceutical supply-chain accountability.

Impact on Democracy: Using WMD authorities for a drug crisis stretches emergency powers into civilian life, bypassing legislative debate over proportional responses and normalizing extraordinary executive authority for domestic policy challenges.

EO 14368 - Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay

Project 2025 Alignment: Advances executive control over federal compensation systems, consistent with efforts to weaken civil-service protections and reduce workforce independence.

Real-World Impact: Changes to federal pay rates—especially if uneven or discretionary—affect recruitment, retention, and morale across agencies that provide essential services. In high-cost or rural areas, pay suppression can hollow out agency capacity, increasing delays, errors, and reliance on contractors.

Impact on Democracy: When compensation policy is adjusted by executive order rather than statute, it undermines Congress's role in setting terms of federal employment and weakens the professional, nonpartisan civil service that democratic governance depends on.

EO 14369 - Ensuring American Space Superiority

Project 2025 Alignment: Emphasizes military and strategic dominance over cooperative or civilian-led space governance, aligning with a national-security-first worldview.

Real-World Impact: Prioritizing "space superiority" accelerates militarization of space assets and may divert resources from scientific research, climate monitoring, and international collaboration. It also increases the risk of orbital congestion, debris, and escalation with other space-faring nations.

Impact on Democracy: Major shifts in space policy through executive action concentrate long-term strategic decisions in the presidency, sidelining congressional oversight and public debate over peaceful versus militarized uses of space.

EO 14370 - Increasing Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research

Project 2025 Alignment: Limited alignment; reflects pragmatic acceptance of research needs without broader drug-policy reform.

Real-World Impact: Expanding research access may improve scientific understanding of medical cannabis and CBD, benefiting patients and clinicians. However, without parallel changes to federal scheduling, banking, or access laws, research gains may not translate into equitable patient access or consistent medical standards.

Impact on Democracy: While supportive of evidence-based inquiry, relying on executive action rather than legislation underscores Congress's continued failure to resolve federal-state conflicts over cannabis policy.

EO 14371 - Providing for the Closing of Executive Departments and Agencies on December 24 and December 26, 2025

Project 2025 Alignment: Minimal direct alignment; administrative in nature, but reflective of centralized executive management of federal operations.

Real-World Impact: Temporary agency closures provide paid leave for federal employees but may delay services relied upon by the public, including benefit processing, regulatory approvals, and administrative deadlines—effects felt most by those with limited resources or time-sensitive needs.

Impact on Democracy: Routine operational decisions made by executive order illustrate how even minor governance choices are increasingly centralized, reinforcing a pattern of executive-first management rather than shared institutional responsibility.

CLOSING NOTE -Why the 2025 Executive Orders Matter

For Montana, the cumulative effect of the 2025 executive orders is felt not as abstract constitutional theory, but as tangible changes to services, protections, and local decision-making. As a largely rural state with significant reliance on federal programs for health care, public lands management, Tribal services, infrastructure, public broadcasting, and emergency response, Montana is especially vulnerable to rapid policy shifts driven by executive discretion rather than congressional action. When authority is centralized in Washington—through emergency designations, administrative rescissions, or unilateral restructuring—Montana communities often experience reduced stability, diminished local input, and fewer avenues for accountability. Over the course of 2025, executive actions increasingly replaced legislated solutions with top-down governance, leaving states like Montana to absorb the consequences with limited resources to adapt or contest those decisions. This matters because democratic governance depends not only on outcomes, but on process—and when the balance of power shifts away from representative institutions, rural states bear a disproportionate share of the risk.

After the Executive Orders — Staying Engaged in Montana

For Montanans, federal decisions often arrive through agencies rather than Congress—and their effects are felt quickly in health care, public lands, Tribal services, labor protections, and rural infrastructure. Citizens can stay engaged by watching agency actions that affect Medicaid eligibility, land-use permitting, environmental review, public broadcasting, and workforce standards. Paying attention to funding changes, leadership appointments, and court rulings helps communities anticipate impacts before services are reduced or protections disappear. In a rural state with limited administrative capacity, early awareness and collective civic response remain some of the most effective tools for protecting local interests and democratic accountability.

What Montanans Can Watch Going Forward

As executive authority has expanded through orders, directives, and administrative actions, Montanans can stay informed by watching a small set of federal levers that most directly affect life in a rural state:

• **Agency Rulemaking and Guidance** Many executive orders are implemented not through new laws, but through agency rules, enforcement guidance, or internal memos. Changes at agencies such as HHS, EPA, Interior, Labor, FCC, and DHS can quietly alter eligibility, enforcement, or protections that affect health care, land use, labor standards, and communications in Montana.

• **Budget Execution and Program Rescissions** Even when Congress appropriates funds, the executive branch controls how—and whether—programs are carried out. Watch OMB directives, rescissions, and "reprogramming" decisions that can reduce or delay funding for Medicaid, public lands management, Tribal services, infrastructure, and public broadcasting.

• **Staffing and Agency Leadership Changes** Who leads federal agencies often matters as much as what laws are on the books. Appointments, acting officials, and internal reorganizations can rapidly reshape policy priorities, enforcement intensity, and responsiveness to state and local concerns.

• **Public Lands and Environmental Review Processes** Shifts in NEPA implementation, permitting timelines, and interagency consultation can significantly affect Montana's public lands, watersheds, wildlife, and outdoor economy—often with limited opportunity for local input once decisions are underway.

• **Civil Service and Contractor Rules** Changes to federal workforce protections, pay systems, or contractor requirements can weaken institutional expertise and reduce the stability of services Montanans rely on, particularly in rural and hard-to-staff regions.

• **Emergency and National Security Designations** The use of emergency or national-security frameworks for domestic issues—such as drugs, immigration, energy, or technology—can expand executive authority while narrowing public oversight and judicial review.

• **Litigation and Court Rulings** Many 2025 executive actions are already being challenged in court. Judicial decisions will shape how far executive authority can extend and whether statutory and constitutional limits are enforced.

Where to Track Federal Changes Going Forward

These sources allow citizens to follow executive action **at the point where it becomes real**: implementation, funding, enforcement, and judicial review.

Primary Government Sources

- **Federal Register** — Official publication of executive orders, agency rules, notices, and guidance. *Use it to:* track new EOs, rulemakings, and implementation timelines.
- **Congress.gov** — Legislation, appropriations, and oversight activity. *Use it to:* see what Congress authorizes versus what the executive implements.
- **Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** — Budget execution, rescissions, regulatory review. *Use it to:* follow funding delays, reprogramming, and regulatory priorities.
- **Agency Websites & Dockets** (HHS, EPA, Interior, Labor, DHS, FCC) *Use them to:* monitor rule changes, enforcement shifts, and public comment opportunities.

Judicial & Accountability Tracking

- **PACER / CourtListener** — Federal court filings and rulings. *Use them to:* track lawsuits challenging executive actions.
- **Congressional Research Service (CRS)** reports *Use them to:* understand legal limits, statutory authority, and constitutional issues.

Independent & Civic Oversight

- **Nonpartisan watchdogs** (e.g., government accountability, civil rights, budget analysis groups) *Use them to:* contextualize impacts and identify emerging risks.
- **Investigative journalism outlets** *Use them to:* connect policy changes to real-world consequences.

Tip: You do not need to read everything. Following just one or two of these sources consistently provides a reliable early warning system for policy shifts.

You can continue to check for new Executive Orders on the Federal Register webpage in this link: https://www.federalregister.gov/presidential-documents/executive-orders

References & Evidence Base for Impact Analysis in the Guide

A. Master Primary Sources (All EOs, official texts)

- **Federal Register - 2025 Executive Orders (Donald J. Trump, EO 14147–14356)**: Canonical publication of each EO with dates and full text. (Federal Register)
- **Executive Office of the President - 2025 FR Index** (volume of presidential docs published). (Federal Register)

B. Cross-Cutting Law & Process (Executive power, EOs, emergencies)

- **CRS - "Executive Orders: Issuance, Modification, and Revocation."** Definitive overview of EO authority and limits. (Every CRS Report)
- **Brennan Center - Unitary executive & imperial presidency explainers** (why concentration of power threatens checks & balances). (Brennan Center for Justice)
- **CRS - National Emergencies Act (NEA) overviews** (scope, expedited procedures, six-month review, authorities unlocked by emergencies). (Congress.gov)

1) Civil Service, Schedule F / "Policy-Career" Reclassifications, Advisory Committees

Primary / Official

- **White House (Jan 20, 2025):** EO reinstating Schedule F–style regime ("Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions…"). (White House)
- **OPM Proposed/Inspection Doc (Apr 18, 2025):** Regulatory text reviving successor classification; explains patronage risks raised by commenters and OPM's framing. (Federal Register Public Inspection)
- **Federal Register (Apr 9, 2024):** OPM final rule safeguarding merit protections after Biden revoked EO 13957. (Federal Register)
- **GSA / FACA Guidance:** How advisory committees must operate (balance, openness, records). (U.S. General Services Administration)

Secondary / Nonpartisan

- **CRS - "New Civil Service 'Policy/Career' Schedule: Issues for Congress."** Fresh analysis of risks to merit protections. (Congress.gov)
- **CRS - Federal Advisory Committee Act (overview + membership rules).** (Congress.gov)
- **GAO - Civil Service protections & Schedule F concerns** (background and agency perspectives). (U.S. GAO)
- **Protect Democracy - Schedule F explainers** (risk of loyalty tests vs. merit). (Protect Democracy)

Credible Media

- **GovExec / Politico / Guardian** - reporting on moves to revive Schedule F-like classifications and weaken protections. (Government Executive)

2) Trade, Tariffs, and Executive Control of Commerce (Section 232, reciprocal tariffs)

Primary / Official

- **BIS (DOC) - Section 232 Investigations overview** (mechanics & "national security" standard). (Bureau of Industry and Security)

Secondary / Nonpartisan

- **CRS - Section 232 "In Focus" briefs** (scope, delegation from Congress to the President). (Congress.gov)

Credible Media / Context

- **Politico** - copper & semiconductor 232 probes in 2025; real-world application & market effects. (Politico)

3) Emergency Powers, Surveillance, and Platform Controls (TikTok/PAFACAA, national security authorities)

Primary / Official

- **CRS - TikTok: FAQ & Issues for Congress (R48023)** (legal posture, bill-of-attainder concerns, timelines). (Congress.gov)

Secondary / Nonpartisan

- **Lawfare** - Supreme Court & PAFACAA analysis; earlier legal primers on platform bans under IEEPA/NEA. (Default)

Credible Media / Context

- **Wikipedia (well-sourced legislation entry) - PAFACAA background & timeline** (use for quick reader orientation; verify with CRS/Lawfare). (Wikipedia)

4) Energy, Environment, NEPA / Fast-tracking Permits and Federal Land Policy

Primary / Official

- **CEQ (NEPA) - statutory & regulatory foundations** (what NEPA requires). (ceq.doe.gov)

Secondary / Nonpartisan

- **CRS - NEPA Overview & judicial review updates (2025)** including new deadlines and court standards. (Congress.gov)
- **CRS - CEQ rescission/updates explainer** (2025 changes contextualized). (Every CRS Report)

5) Public Media, Culture, and Government Messaging (CPB/NPR/PBS; federal aesthetics)

Primary / Official

- **CPB - "About" (mission, funding pass-through to local stations).** (cpb.org)
- **CRS - Public Broadcasting background & current issues (2025 update).** (Congress.gov)

Secondary / Nonpartisan

- **CRS - CPB funding primer (historic baseline & mechanics).** (Every CRS Report)

Credible Media / Context

- **AP / Politico / Reuters** - 2025 developments impacting CPB (defunding, shutdown, FEMA EAS dispute). (AP News)
- **White House post (example of stated rationale about "biased media")** - useful for contrasting claims with CRS facts. (White House)

6) Project 2025 - Blueprint & Independent Analyses (foundation for alignment assessments)

Primary

- **Heritage - Project 2025 "Mandate for Leadership" (full text)** - the blueprint used to evaluate alignment. (Heritage Foundation)

Secondary / Nonpartisan & Research

- **Brookings - series on the expanding presidency & Project 2025 tech/media policy implications.** (Brookings)
- **Brennan Center - analysis of Project 2025's unitary-executive aims and democratic risks.** (Brennan Center for Justice)
- **Democracy Forward - People's Guide to Project 2025** (reference map to policy planks; cite cautiously as advocacy with sources). (Democracy Forward)

Context / International & Investigative

- **El País / Le Monde / Guardian** - reporting on Project 2025 influence, funding networks, and export of model abroad (use for context; pair with U.S. primary/CRS). (El País)

Key References on Executive Orders, Project 2025, and Constitutional Risks – Resources for action.

This additional extended bibliography is grouped into primary government records, constitutional analysis, nonpartisan research institutions, civil-rights organizations, and investigative journalism used to verify and contextualize the Executive Orders discussed in this Guide.

- **Primary government sources** (for verification)
- **Legal / constitutional analysis**
- **Democracy & civil-rights organizations**
- **Media-literacy and disinformation trackers**
- **Project 2025–focused watchdogs**
- **Mainstream investigative journalism**

Extended Bibliography: Executive Orders, Project 2025, and Constitutional Governance

Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS)
https://www.acus.gov Nonpartisan federal agency studying administrative law and regulatory process; useful for context on agency independence and rulemaking norms.

Administrative Law Review (American University)
https://administrativelawreview.org Includes podcasts and scholarship critically examining Project 2025, unitary executive theory, and risks to the administrative state.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
https://www.aclu.org Project 2025 explainers, EO litigation, civil-rights and constitutional analysis across immigration, speech, voting, and executive overreach.

American Presidency Project (University of California, Santa Barbara)
https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu Authoritative archive of executive orders, proclamations, and presidential documents across administrations.

Brennan Center for Justice (NYU Law)
https://www.brennancenter.org In-depth legal analysis of Project 2025, voting rights, DOJ independence, separation of powers, and democratic erosion.

Brookings Institution
https://www.brookings.edu Policy analysis on executive power, administrative governance, trade, education, and institutional norms.

Center for American Progress (CAP)
https://www.americanprogress.org Research and analysis on democratic institutions, civil rights, climate, education, and executive authority.

Congress.gov (Library of Congress)
https://www.congress.gov Primary source for statutes, appropriations, resolutions, CRS reports, and congressional responses to executive actions.

Congressional Research Service (CRS)
https://crsreports.congress.gov Nonpartisan legal and policy background on executive authority, CPB, elections, national security, and agency structure.

Constitution Center (National Constitution Center)
https://constitutioncenter.org Authoritative constitutional interpretation, educational resources, and expert essays on separation of powers and executive authority.

Democracy Docket
https://www.democracydocket.com Tracks litigation affecting voting rights, election administration, and democratic access.

Democracy Forward
https://democracyforward.org Legal organization challenging unlawful executive actions; publishes Project 2025 litigation updates and explainers.

FactCheck.org (Annenberg Public Policy Center)
https://www.factcheck.org Nonpartisan fact-checking on executive orders, Project 2025 claims, elections, climate, and civil rights.

Federal Register (NARA / Office of the Federal Register)
https://www.federalregister.gov **Source of record** for all executive orders, rules, notices, and official presidential actions.

Government Accountability Office (GAO)
https://www.gao.gov Audits and evaluations of federal programs, spending, and agency compliance - useful for real-world impact assessment.

Heritage Foundation - Project 2025 (Primary Source)
https://www.project2025.org https://static.heritage.org/project2025/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf Primary blueprint used to compare *stated goals* vs *real-world effects*.

League of Women Voters (LWV)
https://www.lwv.org Nonpartisan civic organization focused on voting rights, democratic norms, and constitutional governance; publishes Project 2025 concerns.

Leaving MAGA
https://leavingmaga.org First-person narratives and educational materials on authoritarian movements, political extremism, and democratic disengagement.

Lincoln Project
https://lincolnproject.us Conservative-led anti-authoritarian organization producing explainers and campaigns addressing democratic erosion and executive overreach.

Media Bias Fact Check / MediaMap
https://mediabiasfactcheck.com https://www.mediamap.io Media-literacy tools for identifying ownership, bias, and reliability - used to contextualize sources cited in the Guide.

NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF)
https://www.naacpldf.org Tracks Project 2025-aligned executive actions affecting civil rights, equal protection, voting, and education.

National Constitution Center - Interactive Constitution
https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution Clause-by-clause constitutional analysis referenced when evaluating executive authority claims.

National Urban League - STOP Project 2025

https://nul.org/stop-project-2025 Civil-rights–focused critique framing Project 2025 as a threat to equal citizenship and democratic governance.

OpenSecrets
https://www.opensecrets.org Tracks political funding, donor networks, and organizational influence relevant to Project 2025 backers.

Project 2025 Tracker (Independent / Coalition-Based)
Examples include: https://www.redwine.blue/project-2025 Tracks which Project 2025 proposals have already been implemented via executive action.

Public Citizen
https://www.citizen.org Research and advocacy on executive power, regulatory capture, corporate influence, and constitutional accountability.

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)
https://www.splcenter.org Research on authoritarian movements, extremist networks, and policy capture relevant to Project 2025 personnel pipelines.

The Guardian (U.S. & International Reporting)
https://www.theguardian.com Investigative journalism on Project 2025, Heritage Foundation influence, and executive consolidation of power.

The New Yorker
https://www.newyorker.com Long-form reporting and essays on ideology, authoritarianism, and democratic decline.

The Washington Post
https://www.washingtonpost.com Investigative reporting on executive orders, agency purges, CPB defunding, civil service restructuring, and litigation.

Town & Country (Explainer Coverage)
https://www.townandcountrymag.com Accessible summaries aggregating expert analysis and primary sources on Project 2025 and democratic implications.

Wikipedia (Cross-Reference Only)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_2025 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_orders_of_Donald_Trump
Used only as a **secondary orientation tool**, with citations traced back to primary sources.

WhiteHouse.gov
https://www.whitehouse.gov Administration fact sheets and EO framing ("stated goals") used as contrast against real-world impacts.

Appendix - Comparison of Federal Hiring Policy: Pre-2025 vs. 2025 Merit Hiring Plan

This chart summarizes 25 key differences between the traditional pre-2025 federal hiring policy as guided by OMB and OPM, and the new May 29, 2025 'Merit Hiring Plan' issued under EO 14170.
The comparison highlights the significant ideological, procedural, and structural changes now being implemented.

Category	Pre-2025 OMB Hiring Manual	May 29, 2025, Merit Hiring Plan
Stated Purpose	Ensure fair, open, and merit-based hiring; uphold civil service protections and diversity goals.	Restore hiring to 'American values', emphasizing patriotism and constitutional loyalty; claims federal hiring system is broken and discriminatory.
DEI & Equal Opportunity	Supports diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI); adheres to EEOC guidelines; prohibits discrimination.	Eliminates DEI programs; prohibits use of race/sex data in hiring; mandates dismantling DEI offices.
Hiring Criteria	Focus on job qualifications, experience, and competencies; promotes fair consideration for all.	Emphasizes 'patriotism', constitutional loyalty, and ideological fit with administration's goals; bans diversity goals.
Assessment Tools	Encourages structured interviews, skills tests, education, and experience.	Mandates elimination of self-assessments; requires technical/alternative tests and written essays demonstrating loyalty.
Resume & Application Format	Allows detailed federal resumes; structured qualifications review.	Limits resumes to 2 pages; requires four ideological short essays for GS-5+ jobs.
Time-to-Hire Goals	Encourages efficiency but recognizes variation; typically 90–120 days.	Mandates hiring completion under 80 days across government; adds reporting mandates.
Veteran & STEM Recruitment	Prioritizes veterans and STEM candidates while supporting broad outreach.	Frames recruitment as a search for 'patriotic Americans' and emphasizes traditional/conservative institutions.
Centralized Oversight	OMB/OPM provide oversight, support agency flexibility within law.	Creates centralized OPM 'Talent Team' to enforce ideological hiring compliance and discipline noncompliant staff.
Agencies' Discretion	Agency heads given flexibility to meet mission within Title 5 standards.	Agency leadership must sign off on candidate fit and conduct 'executive interviews' to confirm ideological alignment.
Language Tone	Professional and neutral, focused on legal compliance and HR best practices.	Highly politicized, uses emotionally charged language (e.g., 'radical', 'immoral', 'patriotic Americans').
Essay Requirements	Applicants assessed via resumes, interviews, and sometimes technical tests.	Applicants must write short essays demonstrating loyalty to Constitution

		and alignment with President's agenda.
Use of AI	Exploring AI and automation to improve hiring transparency and efficiency.	Prohibits use of AI-generated content in applications, requiring human-only responses.
Performance Metrics	Focus on overall agency performance, compliance, and equity in hiring outcomes.	Focus on ideological compliance, essay vetting, and reporting removal of DEI staff.
Agency Reporting	Annual or quarterly updates typically tied to workforce plans and DEI goals.	Monthly reports required; agencies must report DEI eliminations, ideological outreach, and loyalty vetting.
Security Vetting	Security clearance and background checks based on role sensitivity.	Mandates 'continuous vetting' and acceleration of security checks with new ideological filters.
Shared Certificates	Encouraged across agencies to reduce redundancy and improve efficiency.	Mandated as central to reducing time-to-hire; agencies must designate Shared Certificate Coordinators.
OPM Oversight	Provides technical assistance, compliance review, and strategic hiring guidance.	Expanded power: OPM "Talent Team" enforces ideology-driven hiring, collects names, monitors discipline.
Use of Metrics	Evaluates diversity, time-to-hire, qualifications match, and applicant satisfaction.	Eliminates demographic analysis; tracks metrics on ideological alignment, assessment compliance, and speed.
Job Postings	Descriptive titles, inclusive language, clear minimum qualifications.	Mandates ideological phrasing; replaces standard job titles with "patriot"-coded messaging.
Outreach Sources	Targets a wide range of institutions: HBCUs, community colleges, urban schools, veteran orgs.	Prioritizes religious schools, military, homeschooling, 4-H, and conservative networks.
Education Requirements	Degree requirements depend on position; alternative pathways encouraged but not mandated.	Removes degree requirements broadly; promotes skills tests and ideological alignment instead.
Appeals Process	Federal applicants have access to structured appeal/review processes under Title 5.	Silent on appeals or redress; disciplinary action is emphasized for noncompliance with ideology.
SES Oversight	Senior Executive Service (SES) appointments must meet merit-based standards and review boards.	Agencies must realign SES positions to support "democratic leadership" as defined by executive ideology.
Discipline Enforcement	Agency discretion for HR violations or mismanagement.	Mandates disciplinary action for DEI-related conduct or "unlawful discrimination by ideology."
Public Data Transparency	Agencies publish workforce demographic data in annual reports.	Bans collection or publication of workforce diversity data by race, sex, or national origin.

Appendix – Reference for EO 14170 (also relevant to EO 14171)

Merit, Oath, and Viewpoint Screens under EO 14170- Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and Restoring Merit to Government Service

Overview

EO 14170 orders a government-wide Federal Hiring Plan within 120 days, led by the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy in consultation with OMB, OPM, and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). The plan must expand skills-based assessments (as required by the Chance to Compete Act of 2024), drive time-to-hire under 80 days, improve applicant communication, modernize data/technology, require visible leadership engagement, and adjust Senior Executive Service (SES) allocations across major civilian agencies. It frames these steps as "restoring merit," bars selection based on race, sex, or religion, and instructs agencies to "prevent the hiring of individuals who are unwilling to defend the Constitution or to faithfully serve the Executive Branch." These directives sit atop longstanding law: the Merit System Principles require fair, open competition and selection solely on ability, knowledge, and skills, and the prohibited personnel practices (PPPs) bar political-affiliation discrimination and other unlawful screens. Implementation will hinge on OPM's metrics and agency resourcing; done well, skills-based hiring can speed hard-to-fill roles, but rushed rollout or over-reading the rhetoric risks undercutting lawful equal-opportunity outreach and chilling protected speech.[12]

Callout - About "screening out applicants unwilling to defend the Constitution"

• What the EO says: Agencies are told to "prevent the hiring of individuals who are unwilling to defend the Constitution."[3]

• Why it's redundant: Every federal hire must swear an oath to "support and defend the Constitution" before entering on duty; you cannot be hired without it (5 U.S.C. § 3331).[4]

• Lawful implementation: Suitability/fitness is governed by OPM's Part 731 standards (character/conduct, truthfulness, falsification), not ideology or partisan loyalty tests.[5]

• Where misuse gets unlawful: Turning this into a viewpoint or political-loyalty screen risks violating PPPs (no discrimination based on political affiliation; no coercion of political activity) and runs into First Amendment patronage-case law.[6]

The order says agencies should **"prevent the hiring of individuals unwilling to defend the Constitution."** That standard is **already mandatory**: every federal employee must swear to **support and defend the Constitution** before starting work (5 U.S.C. § 3331). The danger is misuse—turning a lawful oath into a **political litmus test**. That would violate federal **merit rules** and **prohibited personnel practices** (no discrimination based on political affiliation; no coercion of political activity) and run afoul of Supreme Court precedent rejecting partisan loyalty screening for most public jobs. Agencies must apply this clause through **existing OPM suitability rules** (character/conduct), not ideology; otherwise it's a pretext and legally vulnerable. eCFR+5The American Presidency Project+5Legal Information Institute+5

Legal / Policy Anchors & likely constitutional questions

• Statutes/Rules: 5 U.S.C. §§ 3301–3302 (presidential/OPM authority for competitive service); § 3331 (oath); §§ 2301–2302 (Merit System Principles; PPPs); 5 C.F.R. part 731 (suitability/fitness).[8]
• Key legal question: Can agencies operationalize "unwilling to defend the Constitution" without drifting into viewpoint-based screens? The lawful path is to rely on the existing oath and job-related suitability factors.[9]
• Risk of overreach: Any guidance, questionnaires, or interviews that test political orthodoxy would be vulnerable under § 2302(b) and First Amendment-based civil-service precedent.[10]

Effective-By / Key Dates (from the EO text)

• Federal Hiring Plan due within 120 days of January 20, 2025 (i.e., by May 20, 2025).[11]
• OPM to set performance metrics and consult with agencies and labor organizations; agency heads to implement HR best practices with DOGE advice.[12]

Sources & Notes

1. Federal Register, EO 14170 (official text/title).
2. 5 U.S.C. §§ 2301–2302 (Merit System Principles; Prohibited Personnel Practices).
3. Federal Register, EO 14170 (screening clause).
4. 5 U.S.C. § 3331 (Oath of Office).
5. 5 C.F.R. part 731 (OPM suitability).
6. 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b) (prohibited personnel practices); Supreme Court patronage cases (Elrod/Branti/Rutan).
7. 5 U.S.C. §§ 2301–2302; OPM/OSC enforcement framework.
8. 5 U.S.C. §§ 3301–3302; § 3331; §§ 2301–2302; 5 C.F.R. part 731.
9. 5 U.S.C. § 3331; 5 C.F.R. part 731.
10. 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b); Elrod v. Burns; Branti v. Finkel; Rutan v. Republican Party.
11. Federal Register, EO 14170 (timelines).
12. Federal Register, EO 14170 (implementation & metrics).

Appendix - Detail on Executive Order 14303 titled 'Restoring Gold Standard Science' – and the integrity of Science

When describing the alleged practice of censoring scientific outcomes to achieve a desired result, critics of the Trump administration's "Restoring Gold Standard Science" executive order have used several terms. [1, 2]

Scientific and research misconduct

These terms describe deliberate actions that violate the established norms of scientific inquiry:

- **Falsification:** Manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or altering or omitting data or results so the research is not accurately represented.
- **Fabrication:** Making up data or results and recording or reporting them as if they were real.
- **Scientific fraud:** Deceptive practices used in the context of scientific research.
- **Unethical research practices:** Actions that stray from commonly accepted professional standards.
- **Research misbehavior:** A broader term that includes but is not limited to formal misconduct, sometimes referring to questionable research practices. [3]

Deceptive and misleading language

These terms focus on how information is framed and presented to mislead the public:

- **Distortion:** Twisting or emphasizing certain statements to create an inaccurate or misleading impression.
- **Misrepresentation:** Presenting information in a way that doesn't align with the truth, often with the intent to deceive.
- **Data manipulation:** Illegitimately changing or handling research data.
- **Politicizing science:** The practice of injecting political agendas and motivations into the scientific process itself. [2, 4, 5]

Obscuring or selectively using information

These terms describe the selective use of data or the suppression of information that runs counter to a desired outcome:

- **Cherry-picking evidence:** Deliberately highlighting specific pieces of data that support a particular conclusion while ignoring contradictory evidence.
- **Suppression of science:** Sidelining or silencing scientific findings that are deemed politically inconvenient.
- **Slanting the results:** Presenting results with a bias to favor a specific perspective.
- **Manufacturing doubt:** A strategy used to sow doubt and confusion about established scientific findings. [4, 6, 7]

Bias and influence

These terms describe how external influences can compromise the impartiality of research:

- **Political manipulation:** Interference by political figures or agendas into scientific work.
- **Undue influence:** Exerting improper pressure to sway the outcome or interpretation of research.
- **Compromising scientific integrity:** Actions that undermine the foundational principles of honest and transparent science. [2, 4]

Context in the "Restoring Gold Standard Science" executive order

Critics of the May 2025 executive order have used these types of terms to argue that the order's requirements, while using pro-science language like "reproducibility," are intended to create an environment where scientific findings can be more easily dismissed or manipulated if they don't align with political goals.

The order is also criticized for rolling back scientific integrity protections put in place during previous administrations. [1, 2, 4]

[1] https://blog.ucs.org/jules-barbati-dajches/with-new-guidance-trump-administration-deceptively-targets-scientific-integrity/
[2] https://www.statnews.com/2025/06/09/gold-standard-science-trump-executive-order-politicization-transparency/
[3] https://officeofresearch.ucsc.edu/compliance/research-misconduct/
[4] https://blog.ucs.org/jules-barbati-dajches/trumps-executive-order-puts-science-under-the-thumb-of-politics/
[5] https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/bioethics/glossary
[6] https://innotechtoday.com/how-trumps-gold-standard-politicizes-federal-science/
[7] https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2025/07/trumps-gold-standard-doubt-science/683590/

Appendix - Detail on EO 14314 "Making America Beautiful Again by Improving Our National Parks"

EO 14314 is chock full of symbolism over substance directives, but this example deals with just one of the directives put forth by Project 2025. The order directs the Interior Department to:

- **Review and rescind reservation, permitting, and lottery rules** deemed "unnecessary" for recreation.
- **Prioritize U.S. residents** in any system that remains.
- **Raise fees for foreign visitors** and restructure revenue models accordingly.
  This EO effectively **recast reservation systems as a political problem**, not a management tool.

Meanwhile, for example in Montana, the congressional delegation amplified that message:

- **Rep. Zinke** authored and passed House amendments specifically to **defund Glacier's vehicle reservation program**, describing it as a "rationing system
- **Sen. Daines** advanced committee language and recreation bills requiring parks to **loosen access rules** and consult gateway businesses before limiting traffic.
- **Sen. Sheehy**, alongside Zinke, co-sponsored the **Patriot Parks Act**, adding a $100 foreign-visitor surcharge and declaring U.S. residents the priority use group for national parks.

Taken together, these actions create a **clear political directive**:
Reservation systems should be minimized or eliminated, and NPS should increase unconstrained vehicular access even with fewer staff and shrinking budgets.
Washington has systematically removed the money, authority, and political cover needed to run an effective reservation system.

The rollback is not a neutral "reopening" of the park. It is a shift toward:

- **Higher peak-season congestion** on Going-to-the-Sun Road.
- **Reduced ranger capacity** to manage crowds, enforce time limits, or protect wildlife.
- **Greater pressure on infrastructure**, especially at Logan Pass, Avalanche, Many Glacier, and the St. Mary corridor.
- **A move away from evidence-based visitor management**, after years of observation, visitation studies, and pilot programs, towards **politically motivated access rules** *aligned with the Project 2025 goal of weakening federal land management and restoring executive control over public lands.*

This is a direct outcome of **federal executive pressure, congressional riders, and political messaging** that cast off professional planning tools like reservations as government "barriers," even when they protected the park and improved safety.

Official References and Resources for Executive Order 2025 clusters

Democracy is not preserved by experts alone—it endures through citizens who read, verify, and speak for themselves. Every source listed here is open to the public, and each can be used to fact-check official claims, write to representatives, submit letters to editors, or share verified information with family, friends and neighbors and local groups. Use these materials to **ask questions, challenge falsehoods, and insist on transparency** from every level of government. Verification is participation. Each act of informed inquiry is a thread that strengthens the democratic fabric we share. Maybe it's more than you ever wanted to know, but it's not too much to ask our elected representatives to know it and show it.

Civil Service & Workforce

1. **Federal Register** EOs 14158, 14170–14171, 14217, 14238, 14343 (2025). *Official text and Federal Register publication record of each order concerning federal workforce reorganization and efficiency directives.*
2. **Congressional Research Service (R48032)** *Federal Civil Service Reform Issues and Oversight* (May 2025). Comprehensive analysis of proposed reclassification systems, patronage risks, and congressional remedies.
3. **U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO-24-555)** *Federal Workforce Accountability: Lessons from Schedule F* (Apr 2024). Examines prior attempts to re-categorize "policy-making" positions and the impact on impartial administration.
4. **Brennan Center for Justice** *Project 2025 and the Unitary Executive* (July 2024). Explains how Heritage-aligned reforms aim to collapse checks within the executive branch by politicizing hiring and firing authority.
5. **Protect Democracy** *Schedule F and the Threat to Nonpartisan Service* (2024). Summarizes legal and historical reasons civil-service neutrality is foundational to democratic governance.
6. **Politico / Government Executive / Guardian U.S.** (2025 reporting). Independent coverage documenting reinstatement of Schedule F-style positions and reactions from OPM, unions, and non-partisan watchdogs.

Trade & Tariffs / Economic Power

1. **Federal Register** EOs 14220 - 14223, 14334, 14346 (2025). *Official texts detailing tariff modifications, reciprocal-trade mechanisms, and national-security designations under Section 232 authority.*
2. **Congressional Research Service (IF12247)** *Presidential Trade Authority and Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act* (Apr 2025). Explains statutory delegation to the Executive, congressional oversight limits, and economic implications of "security"-based tariffs.
3. **Lawfare Blog** "Delegated Economic National Security Powers and the 232 Framework" (Mar 2025). Analyzes constitutional concerns raised by indefinite emergency-style trade powers.
4. **Brookings Institution** *Unchecked Economic Powers: The Executive and Trade* (June 2025). Outlines how tariff discretion consolidates fiscal control within the presidency and undermines legislative budget authority.
5. **Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)** *Economic Coercion and U.S. Tariff Policy* (May 2025). Evaluates reciprocal-tariff diplomacy and its strategic risks.
6. **Reuters / Politico / Financial Times (2025 coverage).** Reports on real-world economic fallout, global-market reactions, and expert commentary on legality of recent reciprocal-tariff EOs.

Security, Surveillance & Emergencies

1. **Federal Register** EOs 14159, 14161–14167, 14347, 14350–14352 (2025). *Official texts describing border-security designations, emergency authorities, and national-security justifications for digital-platform regulation.*
2. **Congressional Research Service (R46348)** *National Emergencies Act (NEA): Overview and Recent Developments* (Mar 2025). Defines scope of presidential emergency powers and legislative review requirements.
3. **Congressional Research Service (R48023)** *Terrorism Designations and Foreign Organizations Under U.S. Law* (2024). Explains process and consequences of FTO and SDGT designations referenced in EO 14157.
4. **Lawfare Blog** "TikTok, the PAFACAA, and Presidential Authority Under IEEPA" (Apr 2025). Analyzes legal and constitutional limits of executive control over digital platforms.
5. **Brennan Center for Justice** *Emergency Powers and the Erosion of Checks and Balances* (Feb 2025). Examines how routine use of emergency declarations blurs civil and military authority.
6. **Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)** *Domestic Use of Military Force and Civil-Military Relations in the United States* (Jan 2025). Discusses executive orders that expand military roles inside U.S. borders.
7. **Reuters / Associated Press / Politico (2025 coverage).** Report on deployment of troops to border regions and on industry and civil-rights responses to the "TikTok enforcement delay" and new data-control rules.

Energy, Environment & Deregulation

1. **Federal Register** EOs 14153 - 14156, 14162, 14213, 14241, 14261 - 14262, 14370 (2025). *Official texts announcing national-energy emergency, withdrawal from climate accords, and "energy dominance" directives for federal lands.*
2. **Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)** - *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations Overview* (2024 update). Explains statutory obligations for federal project review and transparency.
3. **Congressional Research Service (R41594)** *NEPA: Background and Implementation* (2025 revision). Details environmental-review timelines, categorical exclusions, and litigation trends.
4. **Congressional Research Service (IF12301)** *Climate Change Policy and International Agreements* (Feb 2025). Analyzes withdrawal from international accords and its legal implications.
5. **Brennan Center for Justice** *Project 2025 and Environmental Governance* (2025 brief). Discusses blueprint efforts to dismantle environmental-justice enforcement and devolve federal oversight.
6. **Brookings Institution** *The "Energy Dominance" Doctrine and Regulatory Capture* (June 2025). Evaluates economic and environmental costs of prioritizing extraction over conservation.
7. **Reuters / Associated Press / InsideClimate News (2025 coverage).** Report on the declaration of a "national energy emergency," suspension of NEPA reviews, and resulting state-level legal challenges.

Technology, Media & Information Control

1. **Federal Register** EOs 14149, 14202, 14208, 14290, 14344, 14355 (2025). *Official texts addressing speech regulation, "anti-Christian bias," federal communications policy, and artificial-intelligence initiatives tied to data ownership.*
2. **Congressional Research Service (R47281)** *Free Speech and Social Media Governance: Legal Framework and First Amendment Considerations* (Mar 2025). Explains constitutional limits on federal intervention in online platforms and moderation practices.

3. **Congressional Research Service (R48025)** *Artificial Intelligence and Federal Policy: Ethics, Data Governance, and Regulation* (Apr 2025). Analyzes AI executive-order authority, data-use standards, and transparency obligations.
4. **Lawfare Blog** "Government Speech and the First Amendment in the Age of Digital Platforms" (Feb 2025). Evaluates how federal messaging initiatives blur the line between state speech and compelled citizen speech.
5. **Brennan Center for Justice** *Project 2025 and Control of Information Flows* (Jan 2025). Details blueprint provisions for consolidating communications oversight under executive-branch direction.
6. **Columbia Journalism Review / ProPublica / Reuters (2025 coverage).** Investigate defunding of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, politicization of federal media grants, and AI-data privatization within health-research EOs.

Social & Cultural Policy

1. **Federal Register** EOs 14168, 14182, 14201, 14216, 14224, 14341 (2025). *Official texts addressing gender and reproductive policy, religious offices, national-language designation, and symbolic criminalization of dissent such as flag-burning.*
2. **Congressional Research Service (R47195)** *Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and Federal Policy: Scope and Limitations* (Jan 2025). Explains constitutional boundaries for faith-based government initiatives and their interaction with the Establishment Clause.
3. **Congressional Research Service (R48019)** *Education Policy and Federalism: K–12 Governance and Parental Rights* (Feb 2025). Analyzes executive influence on curricula, vaccine mandates in schools, and funding conditions under federal education law.
4. **American Bar Association (ABA)** *Civil Rights & Equal Protection Under State Action Doctrine* (2024 update). Outlines jurisprudence defining state-sponsored discrimination and compelled speech.
5. **Brennan Center for Justice** *The Authoritarian Playbook: Culture-War Governance and Erosion of Rights* (Mar 2025). Connects cultural "truth" campaigns and religious nationalism to loss of pluralism and civic equality.
6. **Brookings Institution** *Project 2025, Federal Morality Policy, and Democratic Backsliding* (Apr 2025). Evaluates how socially divisive EOs centralize moral authority in the presidency and weaken constitutional neutrality.
7. **Associated Press / Washington Post / PBS NewsHour (2025 coverage).** Document public-school censorship cases, reinstatement of faith offices, and introduction of English-language federal-identity measures under related EOs.

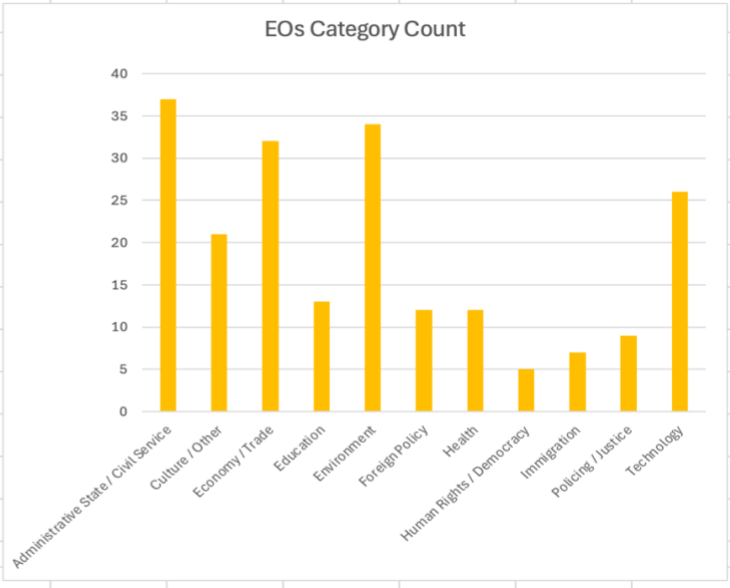
Executive Orders and Project 2025 Charts – Clusters by policy area

How the 2025 Executive Orders (through 14329) cluster by policy area and by underlying "threat theme," revealing the concentration of authority within the executive branch.

When examined together, these counts by *category* and *threat theme* reveal how the 2025 Executive Orders function as a coordinated restructuring of government itself. Rather than addressing individual policy problems, many directives redefine who holds authority inside the federal system, moving decision-making away from Congress, professional agencies, and the courts, and concentrating it within the presidency. This pattern follows the Project 2025 playbook, which envisions an executive-led government with minimal external review. Such consolidation removes the checks and balances that protect democratic institutions and, over time, places public power under the control of a single office rather than the people.

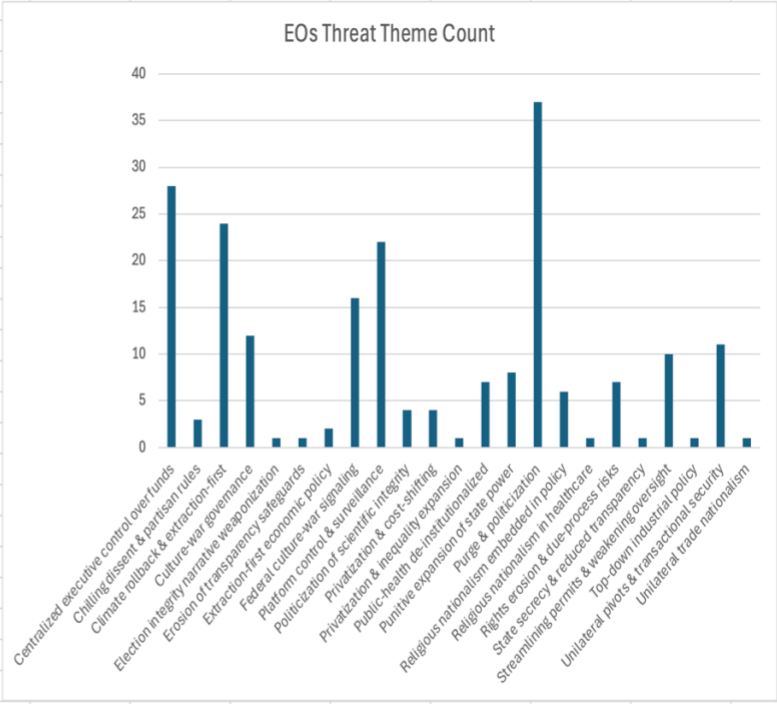
Counts by Category - Summary (2025 EOs through 14329)
The 2025 Executive Orders span eleven main policy categories. The largest share address immigration, civil-service restructuring, and cultural or ideological initiatives—each reinforcing the President's direct control over agencies. While some appear administrative, the cumulative effect transfers governing power from independent institutions and the public to the executive itself. This shift is central to the Project 2025 blueprint and undermines checks and balances that make democracy sustainable by removing oversight and limiting citizen influence.

Category	Count	% of Total
Administrative State / Civil Service	37	18%
Culture / Other	21	10%
Economy / Trade	32	15%
Education	13	6%
Environment	34	16%
Foreign Policy	12	6%
Health	12	6%
Human Rights / Democracy	5	2%
Immigration	7	3%
Policing / Justice	9	4%
Technology	26	13%
		100%



Counts by Threat Theme - Summary (2025 EOs through 14329)
Viewed through their threat themes, most orders expand executive power or weaken democratic safeguards. The most frequent patterns—*purge and politicization*, *centralized executive control over funds*, and *platform control and surveillance*—illustrate how Project 2025 priorities reshape government to serve one political authority rather than the people it represents. Concentrating rule-making and enforcement in the executive branch erodes accountability and endangers the balance that prevents autocracy.

Threat Theme	Count	% of Total
Centralized executive control over funds	28	13%
Chilling dissent & partisan rules	3	1%
Climate rollback & extraction-first	24	12%
Culture-war governance	12	6%
Election integrity narrative weaponization	1	0%
Erosion of transparency safeguards	1	0%
Extraction-first economic policy	2	1%
Federal culture-war signaling	16	8%
Platform control & surveillance	22	11%
Politicization of scientific integrity	4	2%
Privatization & cost-shifting	4	2%
Privatization & inequality expansion	1	0%
Public-health de-institutionalized	7	3%
Punitive expansion of state power	8	4%
Purge & politicization	37	18%
Religious nationalism embedded in policy	6	3%
Religious nationalism in healthcare	1	0%
Rights erosion & due-process risks	7	3%
State secrecy & reduced transparency	1	0%
Streamlining permits & weakening oversight	10	5%
Top-down industrial policy	1	0%
Unilateral pivots & transactional security	11	5%
Unilateral trade nationalism	1	0%
Total		100%



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Counts by Category and Threat Theme (includes up to EO 14329)

EO Category	Threat	EO Count
Administrative State / Civil Service	Purge & politicization	37
Culture / Other	Federal culture-war signaling	16
Culture / Other	Religious nationalism embedded in policy	5
Economy / Trade	Centralized executive control over funds	28
Economy / Trade	Top-down industrial policy	1
Economy / Trade	Extraction-first economic policy	2
Economy / Trade	Unilateral trade nationalism	1
Education	Culture-war governance	12
Education	Privatization & inequality expansion	1
Environment	Climate rollback & extraction-first	24
Environment	Streamlining permits & weakening oversight	10
Foreign Policy	Unilateral pivots & transactional security	11
Foreign Policy	Religious nationalism embedded in policy	1
Health	Public-health de-institutionalized	7
Health	Privatization & cost-shifting	4
Health	Religious nationalism in healthcare	1
Human Rights / Democracy	Chilling dissent & partisan rules	3
Human Rights / Democracy	Election integrity narrative weaponization	1
Human Rights / Democracy	Erosion of transparency safeguards	1
Immigration	Rights erosion & due-process risks	7
Policing / Justice	Punitive expansion of state power	8
Policing / Justice	State secrecy & reduced transparency	1
Technology	Platform control & surveillance	22
Technology	Politicization of scientific integrity	4

Executive orders may appear technical, but together they shape how power flows through our democracy.

When rule-making is concentrated in the executive branch without oversight, citizens lose the transparency, representation, and accountability that define self-government.

Understanding these orders and the Project 2025 plan influencing them is essential to preserving the balance between authority and liberty on which the Constitution depends.

Appendix – Example of Harmful outcomes of Safeguard Shortcuts in Executive Orders in Montana

EO 14225 (Whitebark Pine and results of NEPA/ESA Streamlining)

The idea:
Finish a single, big-picture ESA review for whitebark pine (a threatened, high-elevation tree) and expand NEPA streamlining so similar projects can be approved faster—but only if real safeguards stay in place.[12]

The hazards if rush replaces rigor:

• One-size rules can miss local harm. A programmatic review sets broad rules; without strong site-specific checks, sensitive ridges, watersheds, or habitat corridors can slip through because they "fit the program."[3]

• Public input can be thinned out. Wider use of categorical exclusions (CEs) means many projects skip full EAs/EISs and often have limited public comment windows, especially if CEs are "adopted" loosely from other agencies.[4]

• Cumulative effects get glossed over. Many small, streamlined actions can add up; weak tiering misses the combined impact on wildlife, water, and fire risk.[5]

• Science can lag behind reality. Whitebark pine faces fast-moving disease, beetle kill, and climate stress; if monitoring and update triggers are weak, projects may rely on out-of-date assumptions.[6]

• Shortcuts can backfire in court. When agencies lean too hard on streamlining, courts often send decisions back for a better NEPA review—delaying projects more than doing it right the first time.[7]

• "Adopted" CEs can misfit the job. A CE that works for one agency's routine activity may not fit steep-slope logging or post-fire salvage; the law still requires screening for extraordinary circumstances before using a CE.[8]

Glossary

Programmatic consultation: An ESA §7 review that sets standard protections for many similar projects at once; later site-specific actions "tier" to it.[14]

Tiering: Using a broader NEPA/ESA review as a base, then focusing later reviews on issues not already resolved.[15]

Categorical exclusion (CE): A category of actions an agency has found normally doesn't significantly affect the environment—so no EA/EIS—unless "extraordinary circumstances" apply.[16]

Extraordinary circumstances: Site-specific red flags (e.g., sensitive habitat, cultural sites) that mean a normally excludable action may still need an EA/EIS.[17]

Whitebark pine (Pinus albicaulis): High-elevation, climate-stressed conifer listed as threatened with a tailored §4(d) rule.[18]

Sources & Notes

1. Whitebark pine listed as threatened with a 4(d) rule, 87 FR 76882 (Dec. 15, 2022). https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/15/2022-27087/

2. EO 14225 directs completion of a rangewide programmatic ESA §7 consultation within 120 days and consideration of adopting other agencies' NEPA CEs within 180 days. 90 FR 16533 (Mar. 6, 2025), §(d)–(e). https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/06/2025-03695/

3. CEQ, Effective Use of Programmatic NEPA Reviews (2014), on tiering and the need for subsequent, site-specific review. https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/ceq-regulations-and-guidance/Effective_Use_of_Programmatic_NEPA_Reviews_Final_Dec2014_searchable.pdf

4. CEQ NEPA Desk Reference (2024) and CEQ CE resource page—CEs apply only where actions normally lack significant effects; extraordinary circumstances can require EA/EIS. https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/laws-regulations/NEPA-Implementing-Regulations-Desk-Reference-2024.pdf ; https://ceq.doe.gov/nepa-practice/categorical-exclusions.html

5. CEQ programmatic guidance (2014) on cumulative effects and tiering. https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/ceq-regulations-and-guidance/Effective_Use_of_Programmatic_NEPA_Reviews_Final_Dec2014_searchable.pdf

6. Whitebark pine final rule & species background (87 FR 76882) stressing climate/disease threats. https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/15/2022-27087/

Sources & Notes (continued)

Safeguards to insist on (what to watch for):

• Real tiering: Each site still gets a genuine ESA/NEPA look, with authority to add restrictions—or say "not covered."[9]

• Extraordinary-circumstance checks for CEs: Screen out sensitive habitats, steep slopes, roadless areas, cultural sites, and other red flags.[10]

• Monitoring with triggers: Hard "pause/adjust" triggers if mortality or habitat loss exceeds projections; adaptive management isn't optional.[11]

• Early Tribal/local input: Even with streamlining, build accessible, early comment points and government-to-government consultation windows.[12]

• Documentation quality: Even for CEs, decision memos must be specific and evidence-based to withstand review.[13]

7. NEPA case law digests show frequent remands for inadequate EAs/CEs (e.g., NAEP 2022 Case Law report). https://naep.memberclicks.net/assets/webinars/2023_Webinars/NEPA%20Cases%20%282022%29.pdf

8. CEQ CE page and 40 CFR 6.204 on extraordinary circumstances. https://ceq.doe.gov/nepa-practice/categorical-exclusions.html ; https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/40/6.204

9. CEQ Desk Reference (2024) on tiering to programmatic documents. https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/laws-regulations/NEPA-Implementing-Regulations-Desk-Reference-2024.pdf

10. CEQ CE guidance and agency procedures require extraordinary-circumstances review before using a CE. https://ceq.doe.gov/nepa-practice/categorical-exclusions.html ; https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/40/6.204

11. CEQ programmatic guidance emphasizes monitoring and adaptive management in tiered decisions. https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/ceq-regulations-and-guidance/Effective_Use_of_Programmatic_NEPA_Reviews_Final_Dec2014_searchable.pdf

12. CEQ and agency ESA §7 resources stress early coordination; NOAA/FWS programmatic consultation overviews. https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/section-7-types-endangered-species-act-consultations-greater-atlantic-region ; https://www.fws.gov/service/esa-section-7-consultation

13. NEPA case-law summaries note CE/EA remands for inadequate analysis and records. https://naep.memberclicks.net/assets/webinars/2023_Webinars/NEPA%20Cases%20%282022%29.pdf

14. NOAA ESA §7 overview (programmatic consultations). https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/section-7-types-endangered-species-act-consultations-greater-atlantic-region

15. CEQ Desk Reference (2024) on tiering. https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/laws-regulations/NEPA-Implementing-Regulations-Desk-Reference-2024.pdf

16. CEQ CE page; 40 CFR 6.204 (extraordinary circumstances). https://ceq.doe.gov/nepa-practice/categorical-exclusions.html ; https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/40/6.204

17. CEQ CE page; agency procedures on extraordinary circumstances. https://ceq.doe.gov/nepa-practice/categorical-exclusions.html

18. 87 FR 76882 (Dec. 15, 2022) - final rule listing whitebark pine. https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/15/2022-27087/

How a Bill "Should" Become a Law And How the One Big Bill Act was passed – see Citizens' Guide Part Three for details of the Big Bill.

High school students across America learn that our laws are created through a careful, public, and participatory process.

A bill's journey from idea to law is supposed to follow this democratic path:

1. Bill Introduction - A member of the House or Senate drafts a bill, which is then formally introduced and numbered.
2. Committee Assignment & Review - The bill is sent to one or more committees for public hearings, expert testimony, and mark-up sessions.
3. Floor Debate and Vote in First Chamber - The bill is debated and amended, then passed by majority vote.
4. Repeat in the Second Chamber - The second chamber repeats the process: committee, debate, amendment, and vote.
5. Conference Committee - If both chambers pass different versions, a committee reconciles the differences.
6. Final Vote - Both chambers must vote again to approve the unified bill.
7. Presidential Action - The President signs, vetoes, or ignores the bill (it becomes law after 10 days if Congress is in session).

Average timeline: 4–18 months

Most bills never pass—because deliberation and oversight are intentional features of our system.

However - The Big Bill took a short cut with a Legislative Bypass

In early 2025, House Republicans passed a nearly 1,000-page bill—that folded over 100 individual proposals into one sweeping package.

Some members of Congress openly admitted they had not read the bill. Others were given less than 48 hours to review it.

<u>What they skipped and why it matters</u>

This isn't just about skipping steps. It's about removing democracy from the democratic process.
- No debate means no chance to oppose dangerous ideas
- No hearings mean communities, experts, and watchdogs are silenced
- No amendments mean no ability to improve flawed policy
- No transparency means no accountability for what's hidden in 900+ pages

Bill-making process, definitions

The process matters as much as the outcome because skipping the process is how we lose the people's voice in a representative government.

Term	What It Means (Civics Class Definition)	Why It Matters
Committee Hearing	A public meeting where lawmakers gather input from experts, stakeholders, and citizens	Ensures informed decisions and accountability
Markup Session	A meeting where committee members propose, debate, and vote on changes to a bill,	Allows refinement, compromise, and improvement
Conference Committee	A group of House and Senate members who resolve differences between their versions of a bill	Ensures both chambers agree before a law is passed
Reconciliation Process	A special budget procedure to pass tax/spending bills with limited debate and a simple majority in the Senate	Meant for budget tweaks, sweeping policy change
Omnibus Bill	A single bill that packages many unrelated measures together	Often used to force approval of controversial provisions without debate
Suspension of the Rules	A fast-track procedure that limits debate and amendments	Supposed to be used rarely, but now often abused to rush massive bills

Here's a breakdown of how the One Big Bill Act may affect a state like Montana

Montanans Deserve a Voice: What's Hidden in H.R. 1 and How It Was Forced Through

As Montanans, we're taught from a young age—often in school civics class—how a bill becomes a law. We learn about committee hearings, public debate, amendments, and the checks and balances that prevent abuse of power. But in 2025, our lawmakers abandoned that process. Congress passed H.R. 1—also called the Big Beautiful Bill—a nearly 1,000-page mega-bill pushed through with barely 48 hours of review, some of our representatives who admitted to never having read it, voted for it.

Instead of open discussion and public testimony, this bill was rushed through using budget loopholes and procedural shortcuts. It bundled more than 111 full-sized bills into one vote—on everything from immigration crackdowns and Medicaid cuts to public land sales and tribal program eliminations. Some members of Congress admitted they hadn't read it. That's not democracy—it's a legislative bypass.

And the consequences for Montana are staggering.

Here are just a few of the provisions our Senators and Representatives voted for:
• Cutting Medicaid expansion, affecting over 90,000 Montanans.
• Ending universal free school meals, hurting 47,000 kids.
• Defunding food assistance for over 30,000 SNAP recipients.
• Shutting down rural health clinics, legal aid, and USDA field offices.
• Slashing support for Native nations, clean energy, wildfire resilience, and more.

These changes weren't debated, they were steamrolled. And they'll hit Montana harder than most—because we rely on rural hospitals, public services, and federal programs more than wealthier urban states.

If you're one of the few Montanans earning over $400,000 a year, H.R. 1 offers generous tax cuts. But for the other 98%, it delivers fewer services, less local control, and no real fiscal responsibility. All passed without meaningful debate or public input.

If this kind of shortcut wouldn't pass a civics test in a high school classroom, it shouldn't pass in Congress either, but our representation supported it hook, line and sinker.

See what the American Bar Association says about The One Big Bill Act here
2025 Report for the ABA Task Force for American Democracy

If you want to know more about how the **One Big Bill Act** (H.R.1) and the **Recissions Bill Act** (H.R.4) - both now laws, see the table in the companion booklet, Part Three, to this Citizens' Guide. Every provision, mini-bill within the big bill, is listed with a brief summary of the stated goal, a brief commentary and analysis of the real world expected impact on the nation and on Montana specifically, and whether or not that provision increases the deficit or cuts services and programs.

Project 2025 and the Missing Risk Analysis

From all publicly available versions of Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise and related Project 2025 materials, **there is no section that openly discusses the risks, hazards, or unintended consequences of implementing its changes simultaneously across dozens of agencies.**

Instead, the tone assumes:
- The proposals are inherently correct and beneficial.
- Rapid, coordinated change is essential to "reverse" current federal structures.
- The risk lies in not acting immediately on Day One.

Where "risk" is mentioned, it refers to risk of inaction or leaving prior policy in place - not systemic disruption or institutional collapse. In science, engineering, and systems management, large-scale interventions normally undergo risk assessment before rollout, especially when multiple systems interact. Project 2025 offers no such safeguard.

The Science of One Change at a Time

- In experimental design, the One Variable at a Time (OVAT) principle ensures we can isolate cause and effect. Change one factor → observe the outcome → adjust. Change many factors → you can't tell what caused the result.
- In governance, simultaneous changes to leadership, policy, enforcement, budgets, and laws create confounding - masking cause and effect and erasing feedback loops.

Confounding Variables in Policy

- In statistics, a confounder is a factor that changes alongside your main variable, hiding the real cause of an effect. When dozens of reforms happen together, every outcome is tangled with confounders, making true evaluation impossible.

Interaction Effects and Coupling Risk

- Systems theory warns that simultaneous changes can interact in non-linear ways - producing outcomes no single change could cause alone.
- Coupling risk means that in tightly linked systems, one small failure can cascade into others.
- **Government is one of the most tightly coupled systems we have.**

Chaos Theory in Governance

- In chaotic systems, small changes to many inputs can create unpredictability.
- Government - like ecosystems - is a complex adaptive system. Change too many things at once, and you risk losing control entirely.

Civic Translation of the Science

In science, if you change too many things at once, you learn nothing about what worked. In government, doing that means you don't just fail to learn - you risk breaking systems so badly you can't recover them. Hazards include:

- Loss of accountability - no clear cause for failure.
- Reduced adaptability - can't tell which lever to adjust.
- Systemic fragility - small mistakes multiply across agencies.

Different Ways of Seeing the Risk (Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences)

In the 1980s, Harvard professor Howard Gardner proposed that there's more than one kind of intelligence. People learn and understand in different ways - through words, logic, images, music, movement, nature, or relationships. You probably already know how you "click" with information.

These sidebars explain the same civic risk - changing too many parts of government at once - through different lenses.

Logical-Mathematical
Changing multiple variables at once hides cause and effect - like solving a math proof with missing steps.

Linguistic
If every character, setting, and goal changes at once, the reader loses the plot - just like citizens lose accountability.

Spatial
Move roads, reroute pipes, and shift power lines all at once - and the city stops functioning. Government systems work the same way.

Musical
If every musician changes tempo, instrument, and sheet music at the same time, the result is noise. Stability makes harmony possible.

Bodily-Kinesthetic
No good coach changes your stride, diet, gear, and sleep in the same week. Too much change risks injury - to athletes and nations.

Interpersonal
Swap the coach, playbook, venue, and half the players in a week - the team falls apart. Agencies work the same way.

Intrapersonal
Move, change jobs, and rebuild relationships all at once, and you lose your bearings. So do nations.

Naturalistic
Alter water, plants, predators, and climate together, and the ecosystem may collapse before you know why. Governments are just as interconnected.

Different Ways of Seeing the Risk of changing too many things at once, in Relatable Life Contexts – Jobs

Mechanic's Shop
Replace the engine, transmission, brakes, and wiring at the same time - you won't know which fix worked or failed.

Farm
Switch crops, irrigation, soil treatment, and equipment in one season - a bad harvest could come from any change, or all.

Restaurant Kitchen
Change menu, suppliers, equipment, and staff all at once - chaos in the kitchen, bad service for customers.

Construction Crew
Tear out the foundation, walls, roof, and wiring in one go - the building collapses before you can rebuild.

Hospital
Swap protocols, equipment, staff, and record systems in a week - patient care suffers immediately.

Universal Core Translation
In every job and every life stage, one truth holds: change too many things at once, and you can't tell what caused the results. In government, this isn't just inefficient - it's dangerous. It hides mistakes, blocks fixes, and can break systems beyond repair.

Being Awake Is a Civic Virtue - How "Woke" Got Twisted

Merriam Webster Dictionary definition: woke (adj.) Originally: *awake to facts and consequences*, especially around unfair treatment. (https://www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/woke-meaning-origin)

How it was misappropriated
In recent politics, used pejoratively to dismiss awareness as extremism. In recent years the label has been repurposed as a catch-all insult to shut down discussion by equating awareness with extremism or elitism. That shift is rhetorical, not factual: it swaps evidence and argument for a jeer.

Why awareness isn't optional in a democracy
We don't drive with our eyes closed, tally books without checking entries, or care for a neighbor by ignoring symptoms. Civic life works the same way. "Being awake" means noticing policy effects, testing claims against evidence, and correcting course when harm shows up. These are core principles of constitutional self-government. Branding attentiveness as a vice discourages problem-solving and undermines equal protection.

Being 'awake' is a civic safety feature, not a flaw. In daily life, awareness prevents crashes, errors, and harm. In public life, it keeps us honest about who benefits, who pays, and whether the policy works. Calling awareness "woke" and treating it as a vice is a tactic to stop scrutiny. We choose scrutiny because the people pay the price when government flies blind.

The real cost of the anti-"woke" framing
- It punishes vigilance, training people to prefer comfort over truth.
- It chills equal protection, mocking those who notice discrimination makes fixing it politically costly.
- It rewards misinformation, fact-checking looks partisan rather than like public service.
- It divides neighbors, collapsing good-faith policy disagreements into identity fights.

How to talk about it (practical language).
- Say: awareness, evidence-led, equal-treatment compliance, risk-aware, duty of care.
- Avoid trading slur for slur; define the standard instead: What evidence are we using? What outcome are we measuring? Who bears the risk if we look away?
- Anchor to shared values: safety, fairness, stewardship, honesty with numbers, and open debate.
- Name the stakes, not the side: If we ignore an issue, the costs fall on the people.

Appendix - All the previous Executive Orders Revoked by EO 14148

Official numbers and titles from the Federal Register.

Previous Executive Orders revoked (67)

EO 13985 - Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

EO 13986 - Ensuring a Lawful and Accurate Enumeration and Apportionment Pursuant to the Decennial Census

EO 13987 - Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Government To Provide a Unified and Effective Response To Combat COVID-19 and To Provide United States Leadership on Global Health and Security

EO 13988 - Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation

EO 13989 - Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Personnel

EO 13990 - Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science To Tackle the Climate Crisis

EO 13992 - Revocation of Certain Executive Orders Concerning Federal Regulation

EO 13993 - Revision of Civil Immigration Enforcement Policies and Priorities

EO 13995 - Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery

EO 13996 - Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats

EO 13997 - Improving and Expanding Access to Care and Treatments for COVID-19

EO 13999 - Protecting Worker Health and Safety

EO 14000 - Supporting the Reopening and Continuing Operation of Schools and Early Childhood Education Providers

EO 14002 - Economic Relief Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

EO 14003 - Protecting the Federal Workforce

EO 14004 - Enabling All Qualified Americans To Serve Their Country in Uniform

EO 14006 - Reforming Our Incarceration System To Eliminate the Use of Privately Operated Criminal Detention Facilities

EO 14007 - President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology

EO 14008 - Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

EO 14009 - Strengthening Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act

EO 14010 - Creating a Comprehensive Regional Framework To Address the Causes of Migration, To Manage Migration Throughout North and Central America, and To Provide Safe and Orderly Processing of Asylum Seekers at the United States Border

EO 14011 - Establishment of Interagency Task Force on the Reunification of Families

EO 14012 - Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans

EO 14013 - Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs To Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration

EO 14015 - Establishment of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

EO 14018 - Revocation of Certain Presidential Actions

EO 14019 - Promoting Access to Voting
EO 14020 - Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council
EO 14021 - Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free From Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity
EO 14022 - Termination of Emergency With Respect to the International Criminal Court
EO 14023 - Establishment of the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States
EO 14027 - Establishment of the Climate Change Support Office
EO 14029 - Revocation of Certain Presidential Actions and Technical Amendment
EO 14030 - Climate-Related Financial Risk
EO 14031 - Advancing Equity, Justice, and Opportunity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders
EO 14035 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce
EO 14037 - Strengthening American Leadership in Clean Cars and Trucks
EO 14044 - Amending Executive Order 14007
EO 14045 - White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics
EO 14049 - White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Native Americans and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities
EO 14050 - White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans
EO 14052 - Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
EO 14055 - Nondisplacement of Qualified Workers Under Service Contracts
EO 14057 - Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability
EO 14060 - Establishing the United States Council on Transnational Organized Crime
EO 14069 - Advancing Economy, Efficiency, and Effectiveness in Federal Contracting by Promoting Pay Equity and Transparency
EO 14070 - Continuing To Strengthen Americans' Access to Affordable, Quality Health Coverage
EO 14074 - Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices To Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety
EO 14075 - Advancing Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Individuals
EO 14082 - Implementation of the Energy and Infrastructure Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
EO 14084 - Promoting the Arts, the Humanities, and Museum and Library Services
EO 14087 - Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Americans
EO 14089 - Establishing the President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement in the United States
EO 14091 - Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government
EO 14094 - Modernizing Regulatory Review
EO 14096 - Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All
EO 14099 - Moving Beyond COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Federal Workers
EO 14110 - Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence

EO 14115 - Imposing Certain Sanctions on Persons Undermining Peace, Security, and Stability in the West Bank

EO 14124 - White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity Through Hispanic-Serving Institutions

EO 14134 - Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Agriculture

EO 14135 - Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Homeland Security

EO 14136 - Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Justice

EO 14137 - Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of the Treasury

EO 14138 - Providing an Order of Succession Within the Office of Management and Budget

EO 14139 - Providing an Order of Succession Within the Office of the National Cyber Director

EO 14143 - Providing for the Appointment of Alumni of AmeriCorps to the Competitive Service

Presidential Memoranda revoked (11)

Mar. 13, 2023 - Withdrawal of Certain Areas off the United States Arctic Coast of the Outer Continental Shelf from Oil or Gas Leasing (issued Mar. 13, 2023)

Jan. 3, 2025 - Designation of Officials of the Council on Environmental Quality to Act as Chairman

Jan. 3, 2025 - Designation of Officials of the Office of Personnel Management to Act as Director

Jan. 3, 2025 - Designation of Officials of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to Act as Director

Jan. 3, 2025 - Designation of Officials of the United States Agency for Global Media to Act as Chief Executive Officer

Jan. 3, 2025 - Designation of Officials of the United States Agency for International Development to Act as Administrator

Jan. 3, 2025 - Designation of Officials of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation to Act as Chief Executive Officer

Jan. 6, 2025 - Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Oil or Natural Gas Leasing

Jan. 6, 2025 - Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Oil or Natural Gas Leasing

Jan. 14, 2025 - Certification of Rescission of Cuba's Designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism

Jan. 14, 2025 - Revocation of National Security Presidential Memorandum 5

Source: Federal Register, "Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions," 90 FR 8237–8241 (Jan. 28, 2025) - EO 14148 signed Jan. 20, 2025.

Appendix – Other Project 2025 & Executive Order Trackers online

Many trackers explain **what the federal government has done**.

The Citizens' Guide explains **what that means for Montana**—for public lands, health care, schools, elections, local economies, and the balance of power between citizens and government.

This Guide is designed to help Montanans support verification, accountability, and informed civic action, the following resources are included for readers who wish to confirm facts, explore impacts in greater depth, or participate more actively in democratic oversight.

The resources listed below are provided to help Montanans **verify federal actions, understand local consequences, and participate effectively in civic life**. These projects track executive orders and Project 2025 implementation from legal, regulatory, and civil-rights perspectives that directly affect states, communities, and public institutions. Used alongside the Montana-specific analysis in this Guide, they allow readers to confirm facts, follow impacts to the state level, and engage with confidence.

(Trackers and related resources that are active or credible as of late 2025.)

Project / Resource	Operator / Affiliation	Primary Focus	Best Use	How It Complements this *Citizens' Guide*
Project 2025 Observer	Community-run; not Heritage-affiliated	Tracks Project 2025 proposals and reported implementation	Broad verification; trend awareness	Confirms scope and pace of Project 2025 activity
Center for Progressive Reform – Project 2025 Executive Action Tracker	Center for Progressive Reform / Governing for Impact	Tracks executive actions implementing Project 2025	Verification; regulatory corroboration	Strong support for claims about deregulation and agency capture
NAACP Legal Defense Fund – Project 2025 Tracker	NAACP Legal Defense Fund	Civil rights and voting impacts	Issue-specific corroboration (civil rights)	Supports democracy and rights-based analysis
Reproductive Freedom for All – Project 2025 Tracker	Reproductive Freedom for All	Reproductive health and bodily autonomy	Issue-specific corroboration (health)	Corroborates healthcare and autonomy impacts
Akin Gump Executive Order Tracker	Akin Gump (law firm)	Legal summaries of executive orders	EO text & date verification	Confirms scope, timing, and legal framing
Hogan Lovells Executive Order Tracker	Hogan Lovells (law firm)	Searchable EO database	EO verification	Reliable neutral cross-check
Gibson Dunn Executive Order Tracker	Gibson Dunn (law firm)	Regulatory and business impacts	Regulatory verification	Confirms downstream legal and economic effects

NCSL – 2025 Administration Actions	National Conference of State Legislatures	State-level impacts of federal actions	State impacts (incl. Montana)	Best external source for state and local consequences
ACLU – Project 2025 Explained	American Civil Liberties Union	Civil liberties analysis	Context; constitutional framing	Provides legal context for rights impacts
Wikipedia – Project 2025 (Background)	Community reference	Background and structure	Orientation only	Entry point for unfamiliar readers

Why These Resources Are Included
These resources are provided to **support verification, cross-checking, and independent research**, not as endorsements of any organization's conclusions or advocacy positions. They allow readers to confirm factual claims, explore specific issue areas, and place the *Citizens' Guide* analysis within the broader public record—so that conclusions rest on evidence, not authority.

Appendix – CO_2 Offset Statement

*The estimated AI energy use associated with preparing this Guide (estimated active AI compute time is ~150 hours). This corresponds to approximately **26 kilograms of CO_2** , which is equivalent to the annual carbon sequestration of **one to two mature trees**. To put this estimate in everyday terms, the AI-related carbon footprint of preparing this Guide is comparable to driving a typical car roughly 60–70 miles, using household electricity for about three days, or the carbon cost of about one cup of coffee when priced under common climate benchmarks.*

This estimate reflects only AI computation and excludes human research, writing, and civic labor which thus far has amounted to ~700 hours.

About This Citizens' Guide

This Guide explains every Executive Order from **EO 14147 through EO 14371** in plain English with a focus on impact in the state of Montana. It's written for citizens - to inform us of what is being done in our name.

Each entry includes an overview, a translation of the administration's framing into real-world impacts, and notes on how these decisions affect communities, families, and small businesses. Part 1 looks at broad U.S. effects. Part 2 shows how those same policies land in the state of Montana. Part 3 dives a little deeper into definitions and references, including the major big laws that were passed in 2025 – also carrying out the Project 2025 blueprint.

Democracy only works when ordinary people pay attention. This Guide is one tool to help us all do that.

This is a citizen-led project, created over months of care, fact-checking, and cross-referencing with every effort to be as thorough, accurate and transparent as possible. It is not an official government publication but uses the Federal Register and supporting sources. Any errors are unintentional, and readers are encouraged to note corrections or suggestions for improvement. This Guide is offered as a public resource and may be shared freely for educational and noncommercial purposes with attribution. citizensguide.project@proton.me

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ACRONYM GLOSSARY

A

AAR	After-Action Report
ABA	American Bar Association
ACA	Affordable Care Act
ACE	Affordable Clean Energy rule
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AFDC	Aid to Families with Dependent Children
AFGE	American Federation of Government Employees
AFO	Animal Feeding Operation
AFSCME	American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AID	Agency for International Development
AIP	Airport Improvement Program
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge
ALS	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
AMA	American Medical Association
AMC	Air Mobility Command
AML	Anti-Money Laundering
ANA	Administration for Native Americans
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
APA	Administrative Procedure Act
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
API	Application Programming Interface
APP	Annual Performance Plan
ARPA	Advanced Research Projects Agency
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
ARS	Agricultural Research Service
ASA	American Sociological Association
ASPE	Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
ATF	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
AVI	Audio-Visual Information
AWIA	America's Water Infrastructure Act

B

BAA	Buy American Act
BAT	Best Available Technology
BCI	Brain-Computer Interface
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BIE	Bureau of Indian Education
BIL	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
BIO	Biotechnology Innovation Organization
BIS	Bureau of Industry and Security
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BLS	Bureau of Labor Statistics
BOP	Bureau of Prisons
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
BSA	Bank Secrecy Act
BSEE	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

C

CAA	Clean Air Act
CACFP	Child and Adult Care Food Program
CALURS	Canyon Area Land Use Regulatory System
CBA	Cost-Benefit Analysis
CBO	Congressional Budget Office
CBP	Customs and Border Protection
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFPB	Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGI	Common Gateway Interface
CHIPS	Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors Act
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CISA	Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
CIT	Court of International Trade
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CITGO	Citgo Petroleum Corporation
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

CNCS	Corporation for National and Community Service
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
COBRA	Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act
COE	Corps of Engineers
COP	Conference of the Parties
COPPA	Children's Online Privacy Protection Act
CPSC	Consumer Product Safety Commission
CRA	Congressional Review Act
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CRS	Congressional Research Service
CSB	Chemical Safety Board
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
CWA	Clean Water Act
CX	Categorical Exclusion

D

DACA	Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
DARPA	Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
DBE	Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
DDTC	Directorate of Defense Trade Controls
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration
DEFCON	Defense Readiness Condition
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DIA	Defense Intelligence Agency
DNC	Democratic National Committee
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOL	Department of Labor
DOT	Department of Transportation
DPA	Defense Production Act
DPI	Dots Per Inch (digital imaging); also Democratic Progressive Institute
DPS	Distinct Population Segment
DSCC	Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee
DUNS	Data Universal Numbering System
DWSRF	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

E

EA	Environmental Assessment
EAC	Election Assistance Commission
EAP	Energy Assistance Program
EBITDA	Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization
EBSA	Employee Benefits Security Administration
ECA	Energy Conservation Act
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EDA	Economic Development Administration
EEOC	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
EHR	Electronic Health Record
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EOIR	Executive Office for Immigration Review
EOP	Executive Office of the President
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESG	Environmental, Social, and Governance
ETA	Employment and Training Administration
ETR	Effective Tax Rate
EU	European Union
EUA	Emergency Use Authorization

F

FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAR	Federal Acquisition Regulation
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FFRDC	Federally Funded Research and Development Center
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIFRA	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
FINRA	Financial Industry Regulatory Authority
FISA	Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act
FLSA	Fair Labor Standards Act
FMCSA	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FR	Federal Register

FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
FSA	Farm Service Agency
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
FTC	Federal Trade Commission
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service

G

GAAP Principles	Generally Accepted Accounting
GAI	Generative Artificial Intelligence
GAO	Government Accountability Office
GATT Trade	General Agreement on Tariffs and
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEOINT	Geospatial Intelligence
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GISP	Geographic Information Science Professional
GLO	General Land Office
GM	Genetically Modified
GNP	Gross National Product
GPO	Government Publishing Office
GSA	General Services Administration
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences

H

HACCP Points	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control
HHS Services	Department of Health and Human
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HJR	House Joint Resolution
HMO	Health Maintenance Organization
HSA	Health Savings Account
HUBZ	Historically Underutilized Business Zone Program
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
HUP	Homeowner Utilization Program
HUPA	Housing and Urban Policy Act
HVCRE	High Volatility Commercial Real Estate
HWC	Hazardous Waste Combustor

I

IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICE	Immigration and Customs Enforcement
ICEG	International Council on Environmental Governance
ICWA	Indian Child Welfare Act
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEA	International Energy Agency
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IGA	Intergovernmental Agreement
IGRA	Indian Gaming Regulatory Act
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IHS	Indian Health Service
IIP	International Investment Position
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IND	Investigational New Drug
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service
IO	International Organization
IOU	Investor-Owned Utility
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IRB	Institutional Review Board
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
ISAC Center	Information Sharing and Analysis
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITAR Regulations	International Traffic in Arms
ITC	International Trade Commission
ITIF	Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

J

JCPOA	Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action
JCT	Joint Committee on Taxation
JDA	Joint Development Agreement
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JOBS	Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program
JROTC	Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps
JSTOR	Journal Storage (digital library)
JTTF	Joint Terrorism Task Force

K

KIA	Killed in Action
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KWH	Kilowatt Hour

L

LA	Legislative Analyst
LAN	Local Area Network
LCC	Life-Cycle Cost
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LEO	Low Earth Orbit
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LOA	Letter of Agreement
LOC	Letter of Credit
LOE	Level of Effort
LRS	Land Resource System
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund

M

MACRA	Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act
MACT	Maximum Achievable Control Technology
MANPADS	Man-Portable Air-Defense System
MAP	Market Access Program
MAP-21	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCIP	Municipal Climate Innovation Program
MCV	Mean Corpuscular Volume
MDL	Multi-District Litigation
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MEDICAID	Medical Assistance Program (Federal-State)
MEDICARE	Federal Health Insurance Program (for seniors and certain disabled)
MEPA	Montana Environmental Policy Act
MFN	Most-Favored-Nation status
MISO	Midcontinent Independent System Operator
MLK	Martin Luther King Jr.
MLR	Medical Loss Ratio
MMT	Modern Monetary Theory
MN	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOE	Maintenance of Effort
MOS	Military Occupational Specialty
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
MSHA	Mine Safety and Health Administration
MSRP	Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price
MT	Metric Ton
MWRA	Metropolitan Water Resources Authority

N

NAEP	National Assessment of Educational Progress
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NAP	Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NARUC	National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASR	National Airspace System Resources
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NAVFAC	Naval Facilities Engineering Command
NBP	National Broadband Plan
NCAA	National Collegiate Athletic Association
NCES	National Center for Education Statistics
NDAA	National Defense Authorization Act
NDZ	No-Discharge Zone
NEA	National Endowment for the Arts
NEH	National Endowment for the Humanities
NEON	National Ecological Observation Network
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NFA	National Firearms Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NGA	National Governors Association
NGFS	Network for Greening the Financial System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
NIAID	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
NLP	Natural Language Processing
NLRB	National Labor Relations Board
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOx	Nitrogen Oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priorities List
NPRM	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
NPS	National Park Service
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NRDC	Natural Resources Defense Council
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSA	National Security Agency
NSAID	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug
NSC	National Security Council
NSF	National Science Foundation
NSPS	New Source Performance Standards
NTIA	National Telecommunications and Information Administration
NTSB	National Transportation Safety Board
NWF	National Wildlife Federation

O

OAA	Older Americans Act
OAR	Office of Air and Radiation
OAS	Organization of American States
OASDI	Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance
OATH	Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings
OBBBA	One Big Beautiful Bill Act
OBM	Office of Budget Management
OCC	Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
OCR	Office for Civil Rights
ODNI	Office of the Director of National Intelligence
OECA	Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OES	Office of Energy Statistics
OFA	Office of Federal Assistance
OFAC	Office of Foreign Assets Control
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
OIG	Office of Inspector General
OIRA	Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
ONR	Office of Naval Research
OPIC	Overseas Private Investment Corporation
OPM	Office of Personnel Management
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OST	Office of Science and Technology
OSTP	Office of Science and Technology Policy
OTC	Over-the-Counter

P

PAC	Political Action Committee
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PAO	Public Affairs Office
PAR	Performance Appraisal Review
PBGC	Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation
PCA	Principal Component Analysis
PCBS	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PCE	Personal Consumption Expenditures
PCN	Pre-Construction Notification
PD	Police Department
PEPFAR	President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PFOA	Perfluorooctanoic Acid
PFOS	Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid
PHMSA	Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
PHS	Public Health Service
PIC	Public Information Center

PIO	Public Information Officer
PLA	Project Labor Agreement
PM2.5	Particulate Matter (≤2.5 μm)
POTUS	President of the United States
POW	Prisoner of War
PPP	Paycheck Protection Program
PPPFA	Public-Private Financing Arrangement
PR	Public Relations
PRA	Paperwork Reduction Act
PRIA	Pesticide Registration Improvement Act
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PSC	Public Service Commission
PSLF	Public Service Loan Forgiveness
PSM	Process Safety Management
PTAC	Procurement Technical Assistance Center
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Q

QALY	Quality-Adjusted Life Year
QDR	Quadrennial Defense Review
QFR	Quarterly Financial Report
QIS	Quantitative Impact Study
QOL	Quality of Life
QRA	Quantitative Risk Assessment
QSR	Qualified Settlement Fund Regulation

R

R&D	Research and Development
RA	Research Assistant
RAC	Resource Advisory Committee
RAP	Regional Air Pollution plan
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RDA	Recommended Dietary Allowance
RDI	Reference Daily Intake
REA	Rural Electrification Administration
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
REIT	Real Estate Investment Trust
RFA	Regulatory Flexibility Act
RFP	Request for Proposals
RFQ	Request for Quote
RIA	Regulatory Impact Analysis
RIF	Reduction in Force
RMD	Required Minimum Distribution
ROI	Return on Investment
RPA	Robotic Process Automation
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standard
RTO	Regional Transmission Organization
RTP	Right to Privacy
RVA	Regional Vulnerability Assessment

S

SAF	Sustainable Aviation Fuel
SAR	Specific Absorption Rate
SBA	Small Business Administration
SBIR	Small Business Innovation Research Program
SCC	Social Cost of Carbon
SCOTUS	Supreme Court of the United States
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDN	Specially Designated Nationals List
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SENATE	Upper Chamber of U.S. Congress
SES	Senior Executive Service
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
SIGINT	Signals Intelligence
SIPC	Securities Investor Protection Corporation
SITLA	School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
SIV	Special Immigrant Visa
SLC	Student Loan Consolidation
SMCRA	Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SO_2	Sulfur Dioxide
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SORN	System of Records Notice
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle
SRF	State Revolving Fund
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSN	Social Security Number
STA	State Transportation Agency
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
STR	Short-Term Rental
SUP	Single-Use Plastics
SURPA	Streambank and Upland Restoration and Protection Act

SWDA	Solid Waste Disposal Act
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

T

TAF	Treatment as a Family (Medicaid program rule)
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TAP	Technical Assistance Program
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
TCJA	Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
TFR	Temporary Flight Restriction
THC	Tetrahydrocannabinol
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TPA	Trade Promotion Authority
TSA	Transportation Security Administration
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
TSP	Thrift Savings Plan
TTB	Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
TTIP	Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

U

UAS	Unmanned Aircraft System
UCMJ	Uniform Code of Military Justice
UCR	Uniform Crime Reports
UFO	Unidentified Flying Object
ULSD	Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UPA	Urban Policy Act
UPOV	International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USCIS	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDOE	U.S. Department of Energy
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
USPS	U.S. Postal Service
USPTO	U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
USS	United States Senate
UST	Underground Storage Tank
USTR	United States Trade Representative
UV	Ultraviolet

V

VA	Department of Veterans Affairs
VAC	Vaccination Advisory Committee
VAT	Value Added Tax
VC	Venture Capital
VE	Vocational Education
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
VPN	Virtual Private Network
VR	Virtual Reality

W

WAPA	Western Area Power Administration
WASO	Washington Office (National Park Service)
WDB	Workforce Development Board
WEP	Windfall Elimination Provision
WHO	World Health Organization
WIC	Women, Infants, and Children Program
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
WOTUS	Waters of the United States
WPA	Works Progress Administration
WWII	World War II
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

X

XML	Extensible Markup Language

Y

YCC	Youth Conservation Corps
YTD	Year to Date

Z

ZEV	Zero-Emission Vehicle
ZTA	Zoning Text Amendment